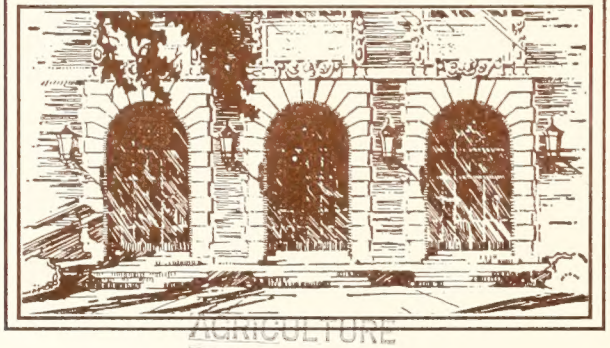
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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS
JAN. 6, 1960

NONREAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS FOR FARMERS

A farm family has some choice in the use of its income. The usual priorities probably rank as follows: (1) reasonable level of living; (2) taxes; (3) some life insurance; (4) increase in operating capital, such as livestock and farm machinery; (5) some improvement in the level of living; and (6) savings.

One goal of many farm families is farm land ownership. They accumulate savings for that purpose. They may be able to obtain control of a farm with a small down payment by using an installment land contract. Or they may make some other form of investment until it becomes possible or feasible to invest in farm land.

In considering alternative kinds of nonreal estate investments, it is desirable to consider the risk one is able and willing to take as to both annual income and change in value of investment, elative yields or returns that can be expected, and the extent to which the investment is a hedge against inflation. The following outline lists several alternative forms of investments according to the above criteria. The selection will depend to some extent on the length of time one expects to keep the investment. A short-term investment may ignore the inflation-hedge feature. The value of the dollar, in terms of articles and services used for family living, would probably change little in a period of one to three years. However, life insurance is usually considered a long-term form of protection and investment, and the cash paid to the beneficiary or received as cash by the insured on surrender of the policy may have more or less purchasing power than the original premium payments, depending on the direction of movement of the price level.

(Continued)

Characteristics of Different Kinds of Investments

Risk as to loss of principal

High--Common stocks
Medium--Preferred stock, some corporation bonds
Low--Government bonds, life insurance reserves, insured savings accounts in banks, or savings and loan associations

Yields,* annual average over a ten-year period

High--Common stocks
Medium--Preferred stocks
Low--Government bonds, savings accounts, bonds of strong corporations, life insurance reserves

Hedge against inflation

Good--Common stocks of corporations that have large investments in physical plants and inventories
Poor--Government bonds, savings accounts, life insurance reserves, preferred stocks (usually)

* There are times when yields are higher on good bonds and preferred stocks than on "blue-chip" common stocks. That is true today, and it is the result of a combination of a strong demand for loanable funds and optimism regarding future dividends on common stocks. It affords an excellent opportunity to combine safety with moderately high yields by buying government bonds or putting savings in savings accounts in banks or savings and loan associations.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

SUPPLIES OF LEGUME AND GRASS SEEDS ARE SMALLER THAN LAST YEAR

URBANA, ILLINOIS JAN. 13, 1960

ALFALFA. This year's supply of alfalfa seed is smaller than last year's, but about average. Production in 1959 is estimated at 130 million pounds, 15 percent less than the 1958 crop and 9 percent less than the 10-year average. Carryover of older seed is estimated at 53 million pounds, 13 percent less than a year ago but 2.5 percent more than average. Carryover plus 1959 crop of alfalfa seed totals 183 million pounds, 18 percent less than a year ago and about the same as the 10-year average.

Last year's domestic disappearance totaled 150 million pounds, and 10 million pounds were exported. Producers of alfalfa seed received a season-average price of about $29.00 a hundred pounds for their 1959 crop, $2.00 more than for the previous crop.

RED CLOVER. The supply of red clover is a little more plentiful than it was last year. The 1959 crop is estimated at 80 million pounds, 12 percent more than one year before but 10 percent less than average. Carryover of older seed is estimated at 21 million pounds, 9 percent less than a year ago and 22 percent less than average. Production plus carryover of red clover seed adds up to 102 million pounds, a little more than the year-before total but some 15 percent less than average. Average domestic use amounts to around 90 million pounds.

The season-average price received by producers for their 1959 crop of red clover seed is estimated at $26.00 a hundred pounds, down from $31.70 a year before.

LESPEDEZA. The supply of lespedeza seed is smaller than last year and smaller than average. The 1959 production totaled 128 million pounds, down 13 percent from the previous year and from the 10-year average. Carryover of older seed is estimated at 15 million pounds, not much different from the year before or from average. This makes a total supply of 143 million pounds, which is close to requirements.

Producers of lespedeza seed received a season-average price of $10.00 a hundred pounds, up from $8.00 a year before.

LADINO. The supply of ladino clover is short, only about 7 million pounds. This is 23 percent less than last year and 53 percent less than the 10-year average. About two-thirds of it is new seed, whereas in many years less than half has been new. Normal domestic use of ladino clover seed amounts to around 5 million pounds. The average price received by producers for their 1959 crop is estimated at $53.00 a hundred pounds, up from $49.00 in 1958.

TIMOTHY. The supply of timothy seed, 1959 production plus carryover, is calculated at 47 million pounds. This is 22 percent more than a year ago but a little less than the 10-year average. The 1959 crop was large, 44 million pounds, while the carryover was very small--only 3 million pounds. Thus practically all of the seed is new. Average domestic disappearance of timothy seed is usually less than 40 million pounds.

Farmers received an average-season price of about $11.00 for their 1959 timothy seed, $2.00 less than the year before.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

SOYBEAN PRICE PROSPECTS WEAKENED BY LOWER PRICES FOR OIL AND MEAL

URBANA, ILLINOIS JAN. 20, 1960

Farmers held 198 million bushels of soybeans on farms January 1. That amount was only 2 percent less than they had held a year before, although the 1959 crop was 7 percent smaller than that of 1958.

Farmers owned at least an additional 13 million bushels that were stored in warehouses. They had placed that amount of warehoused beans under price support before December 1.

Why are farmers holding so many beans? They are holding some to postpone income to 1960. Most farmers expect prices to go up. As one farmer said, "The farm magazines and everybody said, 'Hold beans.'"

Such advice was widely given last fall. At that time many people expected bean prices to sag well below the support level, especially at harvest time. But harvest time is long since past, and prices have been well above the support level, recently by as much as 10 to 15 cents a bushel.

There is no surplus of soybeans. The carryover last October 1 was only 62 million bushels, or 11 percent of the previous crop. The prospective carryover next October will be smaller, probably about half as much as last fall.

The export demand for both beans and bean meal has been very good. Last summer's severe drouth in northern Europe cut feed production and thus increased the need for soybean meal. Exports of beans in October-November plus beans inspected for export in December totaled 57 million bushels, 39 percent more than a year earlier.

But the biggest part of this export demand for beans may soon be over. Foreign buyers have probably purchased about enough beans to carry them until new grass is available.

In spite of the 1959 drouth in Europe, the value of the oil and meal in a bushel of beans is considerably less than it was a year ago.

(Continued)

Soybean oil was recently priced around 7 3/4 cents a pound, or 1.5 cents less than a year before. A bushel of beans contains a little more than 10 pounds of oil, so the oil in a bushel of beans was worth about 15 cents less than it was a year before.

The recent price of soybean meal was $63 a ton, or $4 less than a year earlier. About 40 bushels of beans are required to produce a ton of meal, so the meal in a bushel of beans was worth 10 cents less than it was a year before.

About 15 cents less for the oil and a dime less for the meal makes a total reduction of around 25 cents in the value of the products that can be obtained from a bushel of beans. But the price of beans was down very little--in some markets not at all.

CCC stocks of soybeans are small, only about 12 million bushels on January 1. Sales from October 1 through January 1 totaled 27.5 million bushels. CCC has announced that its minimum sale price through March will be the support level plus 20 cents a bushel. This minimum sale price has been in effect since October 1.

Any substantial price increase for soybeans seems to depend upon some new development, such as a new international crisis or reduced production of beans or competitive crops in 1960.

Deadline for making application for price support loans and purchase agreements is January 31.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS JAN. 27, 1960

CATTLE ON FEED UP NINE PERCENT FROM YEAR AGO

Weights Over 900 Pounds Increase 17 Percent

One of the good things about this world is that predictions of disaster often prove to be wrong. For example, at the first of October farmers reported to the USDA that they were planning to market 24 percent more fed cattle in the October-December quarter than they had marketed the year before.

That was a dark prospect for cattle feeders. But, actually, sales of steers and heifers grading good and better at 12 markets were only 3 percent larger in that quarter than they had been a year before.

Sometimes, of course, actual marketings are greater than farmers' intentions indicate. With these facts in mind, let's look at the latest report of cattle on feed.

Farmers in 26 feeding states reported on January 1 that they were feeding 7,198,000 head of cattle (including calves). This number was 9 percent more than one year before.

The same farmers said that they planned to market 3,313,000 cattle during the first quarter of 1960, 13 percent more than the year before.

According to the USDA, in the past four years actual marketings in the first quarter have been less than intended in two years and more than intended in two years. Marketings fell 5 percent short of intentions in 1956, went 3 percent over in 1957 and 5 percent over 1958, and then fell 3 percent short in 1959.

Illinois ranked second in number of cattle on feed with 688,000 head, 7 percent more than the year before. Iowa, with 1,510,000 head in feedlots, had 6 percent more than last year. California, with 663,000 head, had 32 percent more.

Farmers in 12 north-central states (corn belt) reported 4,911,000 head at the feed bunks, which was 5 percent more than in 1959. Farmers in 11 western states reported 1,896,000 on feed, 16 percent more than last year.

(Continued)

KIND ON FEED. For 21 states with comparable figures, steers made up 70 percent of the total on feed this year compared with 71 percent a year before. Heifers made up 29 percent compared with 28 percent in 1959. The remaining 1 percent each year was cows.

TIME ON FEED. In the 21 leading states, the number of cattle that had been on feed more than 6 months totaled 357,000 head, 39 percent more than last year. The number on feed 3 to 6 months was 1,636,000 head, up 36 percent. There was no change from last year in number that had been on feed less than 3 months.

WEIGHTS OF CATTLE. Cattle weighing over 900 pounds were estimated at 1,840,000 head, up 17 percent from a year earlier. Cattle in the 700- to 900-pound weight range were estimated at 2,109,000 head, up 7 percent. Cattle and calves weighing under 700 pounds were listed at 1,665,000 head, up 9 percent. Number of calves on feed weighing less than 500 pounds was estimated at 1,267,000 head, up less than 1 percent from the year before.

Calves and yearlings that are being roughed through the winter are not counted as being on feed. Shipments of cattle and calves into 9 corn-belt states, July-November, totaled 3,793,970 head, 5 percent more than in the same five months the year before.

The next important government livestock report will be the Livestock Inventory, January 1, 1960, to be released on February 12. Watch for it.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS FEB. 3, 1960

CORN DISAPPEARS 9 PERCENT FASTER THAN A YEAR AGO

Corn disappeared at a record rate during the October-December quarter. The amount used for feed is estimated at 959 million bushels, up 9 percent from the year before and 22 percent more than the five-year 1953-1958 average.

Exports during the period totaled 62 million bushels, up 12 percent from a year earlier and 62 percent more than the five-year average. Wet process uses (for starch and syrup) took 38 million bushels, 3 percent more than in the previous year and 8 percent more than average. Use of corn for alcohol is estimated at 8 million bushels, which is average.

Total disappearance of corn during the past quarter is estimated at 1,067 million bushels. This was 8 percent more than a year ago and 24 percent greater than the five-year 1953-58 average.

This disappearance left stocks on January 1 at 4,453 million bushels. That was 14 percent more than the record for the date set the year before and 42 percent above the five-year 1953-58 average.

The supply and disappearance figures point to a carryover next fall of about 2,000 million bushels of corn, or about one-third more than was carried over on October 1 last fall.

The carryover of sorghum grain also seems likely to be larger next fall. Disappearance in the October-December quarter totaled 187 million bushels, 7 percent less than a year before. This left 902 million bushels on hand, 25 percent more than last year. The carryover of sorghum grain next fall will probably be about a third larger than the 510 million bushels carried over last October 1.

The larger supplies of corn and sorghum grains are partly offset by smaller supplies of oats and barley. Stocks of oats on January 1 were estimated at only 1,011 million bushels, or 24 percent less than a year ago. Disappearance since July 1 is estimated at 667 million bushels, only 4 percent less than in the previous year. The prospective carryover next July 1 is something like 200 million bushels, or two-fifths less than in 1959.

Barley stocks were listed at 360 million bushels on January 1, or 8 percent less than a year before. Disappearance since last July 1 totaled 263 million bushels, only 2 percent less than in the previous year. By next July 1 stocks of barley should be down to about 180 million bushels, or 10 percent less than in 1959.

Altogether we calculate total stocks of the four feed grains on January 1 at 167 million tons, up 12 percent from the year before. This increase is partly offset by a reduction of 12 percent in stocks of hay and by some increase in numbers of livestock, particularly cattle on feed.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

THE HOG SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

URBANA, ILLINOIS FEB. 9, 1960

On December 22 the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported that farmers planned to cut 1960 spring sow farrowings 12 percent below those of 1959. Immediately thereafter prices of feeder pigs and bred sows rose sharply.

Since that time there has been much speculation about the outcome of spring farrowings. Many farmers and crystal-ball operators believe that hog producers will not cut production anywhere near 12 percent. Some have even said that there would be no cut at all--maybe even an increase.

We have been asked for our views. So here goes:

In the first place, it is important to understand that the report of farmers' intentions is not a government forecast. The USDA merely surveys hog producers' plans and reports them so that they can change their plans if they wish. If they are planning to raise too many pigs, it makes good sense to find out about it so that they can cut back a little. If they find that they are planning to cut too much, they can get their production on a more even keel.

In the past not many hog producers have taken advantage of these opportunities. At the turning point in the hog cycle, they have often cut production more than the survey showed. This past fall furnished a good example:

In September farmers reported their intentions to cut December-February farrowings by 4 percent. In December they reported that they were slashing those farrowings by 15 percent! At the same time they said they planned to cut March-May farrowings by 11 percent.

When producers got the news of the 15 percent slash in December-February farrowings, it was too late for them to make any substantial changes in plans for those months. They could, of course, have bred more gilts to farrow in April and May.

The sharp rise in prices of feeder pigs and bred gilts in late December simply reflected an increase in demand. The increase in demand did not make any more hogs. It just boosted the price of

(Continued)

those already on farms. Farmers who owned them suddenly decided that they were worth more. Farmers who wanted to buy raised their ideas about what they would pay.

According to the December report, farmers in nine corn-belt states had about 6 percent more market hogs over 6 months old on hand December 1 than they had the year before. The commercial hog kill in December, however, was 19 percent above that of the previous year.

The number of hogs 3 to 6 months old on farms December 1 was reported to be only 2 percent above that of a year earlier. But slaughter in January was about 13 percent greater. These figures surely do not point to any holding back of gilts for late spring farrowing.

The number of hogs under 3 months old on December 1 was reported to be 3 percent less than last year. These pigs will begin to go to market in April.

These facts point to about the same market supplies for the next four months as in 1959, when prices at terminal markets stuck close to the $16.00 mark.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

TOTAL CATTLE NUMBERS INCREASE 9 PERCENT IN TWO YEARS

URBANA, ILLINOIS FEB. 18, 1960

The nation's cattle herd increased 9 percent in the past two years. The USDA estimated numbers of cattle and calves on farms and ranches January 1, 1960, at 101,520,000 head. That was 5 percent more than one year before and also 5 percent above the previous record high four years ago.

Numbers of dairy cattle increased 1 percent, reversing a five-year down-trend in numbers of cattle kept for milk.

Beef cattle on hand January 1 were estimated at 68,536,000 head. This number was 7 percent more than a year ago and 14 percent more than two years ago. It was two years ago that cattle numbers reached their low for this cycle.

For those who like to make comparisons with population, our population has increased about 1 3/4 percent in each of these years, or 3 1/2 percent in the two years.

Increases by kinds of beef cattle

Numbers of steers over one year old increased 8 percent in 1959 and 17 percent in the past two years. The number on farms January 1 of this year was estimated at 11,009,000. Most of these steers will be marketed this year.

Numbers of calves under one year were estimated at 21,093,000 head, up 7 percent from the year before and up 14 percent from two years before. Some of these calves will be marketed as beeves next summer and fall. Others will be fed out in 1961 or added to breeding herds.

Numbers of beef heifers one to two years old on farms and ranches on January 1 were estimated at 7,419,000 head. That was 9 percent more than a year ago and 22 percent more than two years ago. These heifers will be slaughtered or added to breeding herds in 1960.

Numbers of beef cows increased 7 percent in 1959, rising to 27,263,000 at the beginning of this year. The increase over the two-year period was 11 percent.

Comparisons with 1956

We now have considerably more beef cattle in relation to human population than we had at the peak of numbers in the previous cattle cycle four years ago. In proportion to the number of consumers, we now have 3 percent more beef calves, 8 percent more steers and also 8 percent more heifers than we had at the beginning of 1956. The number of beef cows is the same, in proportion to population, as it was at that time, but the number of dairy cows is 8 percent lower. (Dairy cows eventually make beef too.)

In 1956, the year of the last previous peak of cattle numbers, farmers sold enough cattle to provide each person with 85 pounds of beef, 4 more pounds than last year. These sales, combined with very heavy sales of hogs, kept prices of Choice steers in the lower 20s most of the year. Farmers may supply as much beef to consumers this year as they did in 1956, but competition from pork will not be so great. We might well remember, however, that the yearly average price of Choice steers at Chicago was under $24 for three consecutive years--1955, 1956 and 1957.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

ILLINOIS FARMLAND VALUES HAVE TURNED DOWNWARD

URBANA, ILLINOIS
FEB. 24, 1960

Illinois farmland values may have passed their peak, at least for a while. The United States Department of Agriculture reports that average values declined 1 percent from last July to November. Many unofficial reports since December 1 indicate that prices are down $25 to $50 an acre from the high point last summer.

The 1959 summer drouth in central Illinois depressed prices in some communities and may have pulled down the state average from July to November.

Most of the states surrounding Illinois reported small increases in the value of farmland from July to November. Increases were as follows: Missouri, 4 percent; Iowa, 3 percent; Minnesota, 2 percent; Wisconsin and Indiana, 1 percent; and Kentucky, 3 percent. Michigan, like Illinois, reported a decline of 1 percent from July to November.

Values held about steady in the Great Plains, the Pacific Coast states, the Central-South and New York and Pennsylvania. Two to 4 percent increases were reported in the other eastern states and the Rocky Mountain states. The over-all national average increased 1 percent in the four months.

Compared with a year before, Illinois farmland values in November were up 4 percent, and the national average was up 5 percent.

Illinois farmland was worth about five times as much in 1959 as 26 years before, in 1933. (Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that the dollar is worth only one-fifth as much as it was 26 years ago.)

During the 26 years ended with 1959, Illinois farmland values declined only once, in 1954, and that decline was almost too small to measure. The present decline may be more substantial, for several reasons:

1. Land values are much higher in relation to net farm income than they have been at any time since 1940.

(Continued)

2. The calculated return on land has been less than the interest rate on farm mortgages in four of the past five years.

3. If land values have stopped rising, land has lost its big advantage over bonds as an investment. (Prices of farmland rose about 6 percent a year for many years, while prices of bonds were stable or declining.)

4. Returns on farmland during most of the past five years have been unusually low in comparison with returns from common stocks. (In 1959 average common stocks returned 5 to 6 percent, while the average returns on farmland were estimated at 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 percent.)

5. Taxes on farmland may increase more than taxes on corporations.

6. Nonfarmer investors may lose their enthusiasm for buying or holding low-profit farmland.

Many people have said that the demand for land for farm enlargement will hold prices up. But farm operations can be enlarged by renting additional land. Some farmers with savings to invest may make more by investing in livestock or farm equipment, or in nonfarm securities.

The longer run trend in farmland values will depend upon whether or not our wage-cost inflation is brought under control.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

"LET THE BUYER BEWARE" APPLIES TO ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IDEAS

URBANA, ILLINOIS MARCH 2, 1960

State laws provide heavy penalties for persons who sell impure foods. Laws also require that feeds sold for livestock be subjected to a chemical analysis and that the analysis be printed on every bag or shown on a tag with every truckload.

Peddlers of economic and political ideas are not regulated by law. Their claims and proposals can be as phony as a $3 bill. And they often are.

The citizen's only defense against fallacious economic and political ideas is a skeptical and inquiring mind. In lawyer's lingo, "Caveat emptor." That's Latin, meaning "Let the buyer beware!"

Let the citizen beware lest he be sold a bill of goods which will not do what is claimed, and for which he must pay dearly in taxes or otherwise.

We see many of these ideas every month. For instance, it is often promised that if farmers would just "get together," Congress would solve their income problems.

Farmers were told the same thing in the 1920s. In 1933 farmers did get together. And Congress enacted sweeping laws authorizing production controls, price supports, direct payments, dollar devaluation and even the soil bank (by another name then). But as everyone knows, or can find out by reading history, that legislation did not solve the income problems of farm people.

The blasting drouths of the mid-1930s cut production and boosted prices for a while, but many farmers, especially those in the Great Plains, had little or nothing to sell. And before the beginning of World War II surplus stocks were bigger than ever before, and prices of farm products were even lower on the parity scale than they are now.

This is just one example of the principle that an unsound program will not work, even if it is supported by a big majority.

Another popular but fallacious claim is that farmers can solve their income problems by "adjusting production to demand." That sounds impressive, but what does it really mean?

Economists seldom make such a statement. The expression is too vague to be of much use in serious economic discussion. By "supply and demand" most people probably mean production and consumption. But any supply can be sold at some price--sometimes low, sometimes high.

It is said that other industries are prosperous because they adjust production to meet demand. The coal miners and automobile manufacturers are frequently cited as examples.

When we look at these industries we find that the number of coal-mining jobs was reduced more than 50 percent from 1950 to 1958. And over 90 percent of the corporations that manufactured automobiles in this country have either failed or were forced to go into some other business.

Many farm families have very serious income problems. We believe that the Congress should adopt a program to help these families to earn adequate incomes. But we doubt that most farm families can secure satisfactory incomes simply by "getting together" or "adjusting supply to demand."

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

FARM INCOME STORM CENTERS OVER CASH-GRAIN FARMS IN CORN BELT

URBANA, ILLINOIS MARCH 9, 1960

The farm income storm is now centered in the cash-grain areas of the corn belt, and especially in central and eastern Illinois. While the cash-grain farmers in the corn belt have suffered, other farmers are relatively prosperous. This reverses the position of about five years ago, when the cash-grain operators were prosperous and many other farmers were suffering through economically stormy weather.

CASH-GRAIN FARMS, CORN BELT. Net farm income on cash-grain farms in the corn belt increased about 400 percent from 1940 to 1948 and has been trending downward since that time. On typical 240-acre farms the net cash farm income decreased from an average of about $8,100 a year in 1947-1949 to $7,200 in 1958. In 1959 drouth and lower prices cut returns on many of these farms by around one-third. On tenant farms these returns are divided between landlord and tenant.

HOG PRODUCING—CATTLE FEEDING FARMS. Net farm income on hog producing—cattle feeding farms in western Illinois and in Iowa also increased about 400 percent from 1940 to 1948, but it then dropped sharply to 1955. On typical 200-acre farms the net return decreased from an average of about $9,800 a year in 1947-1949 to only $4,600 by 1955. This sharp cut in income put these farmers in real trouble, while the cash-grain farmers were still making good incomes. After 1955 the incomes on hog producing—cattle feeding farms began to increase, and by 1958 the returns were back up to about $7,800. Lower prices for hogs and lower profits on some, but not all, cattle feeding operations brought some reduction in incomes in 1959.

DAIRY FARMS. Net farm income on dairy farms increased only about 250 percent from 1940 to 1948. The early 1950s brought some further increases, but lower prices for milk and cull cows cut incomes in the middle 1950s. An eastern Wisconsin dairy farm with 15 to 20 cows returned about $3,000 a year in 1947-1949, about $2,000 in 1955 and about $3,000 in 1958 and 1959.

(Continued)

OTHER FARMS AND RANCHES. A typical 180-acre cotton farm in the southeast (Piedmont) made $900 in 1947-1949 and $1,700 in 1958. A farm with 135 acres of irrigated cotton in the high plains of Texas made an average of $5,700 a year in 1947-1949 and $8,400 in 1958. A farm with 700 acres in the southern plains, with 300 acres in wheat and sorghum grain, had incomes averaging $8,300 in 1947-1949, $1,400 in 1954 and $6,400 in 1958. A western (intermountain) ranch with 125 cows had a net cash return averaging $7,900 in 1947-1949, $3,100 in 1955, $5,100 in 1956, $7,400 in 1957, $10,300 in 1958 and about the same in 1959.

The above facts about farmers' incomes should help to explain why the farm income storm is now centered over the cash-grain area of the corn belt, and especially over central and eastern Illinois.

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MARCH 31 - APRIL 1, 2 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE URBANA, ILLINOIS

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

IS "ADJUSTING SUPPLY TO DEMAND" A PRACTICAL PROCEDURE OR AN ECONOMIC WILL-O-THE-WISP?

URBANA, ILLINOIS MARCH 14, 1960

We are frequently told that farmers could get satisfactory incomes if they would only "adjust supply to demand." This is an impressive statement. But what does it really mean? Is there real scientific backing for the idea that farmers can solve their income problems by adjusting supply to demand? Or is the idea a deceptive attraction, an economic will-o-the-wisp? Farmers, and other citizens too, have a right to know.

The words "supply" and "demand" are sometimes used with different meanings. In the usual sense, supply means the amount that is in existence at a given time and place. In economics, supply also refers to a rate of production over a stated period of time. In either sense, supply refers to a quantity made available on a market in response to a variety of conditions that includes the price of the commodity in question.

In demand, there is no "inventory" meaning comparable with the first supply concept. However, demand can refer to a rate of sales over a given period of time. In such case, demand refers to a quantity removed from a market in response to a variety of conditions that includes the price of the commodity in question.

Any supply can be sold (economists sometimes say "will be demanded") at some price. The higher the price, the less will be demanded, or sold. The lower the price, the more will be demanded. Supply and demand come into equilibrium and the market clears at some price.

Most of those who talk about adjusting supply to demand seem to believe that there is some specific rate of production that will insure profitable prices and satisfactory incomes to all, or most, producers. Many believe that only a small cut in output would force a big rise in prices and thus insure prosperity for producers. This belief is based on observations of the effects of small changes in supplies upon prices of some farm products from one year to another. But continuous low production is something else again!

Substantial amounts of all of our big money crops--wheat, cotton, tobacco, corn and soybeans (rice, too)--are exported. Altogether, exports of U. S. farm products amount to about four

billion dollars a year. The crops from one acre in eight are sold in foreign countries or shipped as "aid." We also import about four billion dollars worth of farm products, half of which compete with our own production.

Even if we were able to force our own consumers to pay more for their food, cotton and tobacco, we cannot force foreign buyers to do so. They have many other sources of supply. Other countries already put five times as much competitive agricultural products into foreign trade as does the United States.

As farmers we would like to sell more of the higher priced foods--like butter, beef, pork and milk--to consumers. But all of these foods have lower priced substitutes--margarine for butter, chicken for beef, eggs for pork, etc. If food prices rise materially, consumers will use more of the economy foods and leave the higher priced ones on the shelves. As they become more accustomed to using the less costly foods, their desire, their demand, for the higher priced ones will decrease and the prices will decline.

For these and other reasons it seems very doubtful that any large share of the income problems of farm families can be solved by restricting production to raise prices of farm products.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

PORK SUPPLIES ARE SWINGING FROM ABUNDANCE TO SCARCITY

URBANA, ILLINOIS MARCH 23, 1960

Pork supplies are swinging from abundance to scarcity. By summer pork output may be 15 to 20 percent under 1959 levels. There will be some seasonal increase during the fall, but supplies then will be considerably smaller than they were this past fall. Profits will be better than average in 1960.

1959 FALL PIGS. The number of hogs three to six months old in nine corn-belt states on March 1 was estimated at 11,589,000 head, or 1 percent less than the year before. These hogs will make up most of the market supply in April, May and June. Supplies of competing meats will be a little larger than they were a year ago, but consumer buying power will be stronger. Prices should be around those of a year earlier, when barrows and gilts at Chicago sold for about $16 a hundred pounds.

WINTER PIGS. Last September farmers in ten corn-belt states reported to the U. S. Department of Agriculture that they would cut winter (December-January-February) sow farrowings by 4 percent. In December they said the cut would be 15 percent. In March they reported that the actual reduction was 19 percent!

The number of pigs under three months old in the nine states on March 1 was estimated at 11,139,000 head, 18 percent less than the year before. These pigs will make the pork for the July-August-September quarter. Considering the increase in population, this supply points to only 4 pounds of pork where there were 5 last summer. The Chicago average price of barrows and gilts was above $14 last summer, and it seems likely to be $3 to $5 higher this summer.

MARCH-APRIL SOW FARROWINGS. Farmers have reported that March-April-May sow farrowings in the ten states will total 3,551,000. This number is 10 percent less than last year and 26 percent less than the ten-year 1949-1958 average. Even if the actual reduction is a little less than 10 percent, the market supplies in prospect for the last quarter of this year are definitely on the small side.

(Continued)

Total spring sow farrowings in the ten corn-belt states are now indicated to be 13 percent less than in 1959.

All pigs born from December 1 through May are listed as spring pigs. All other pigs, born from June 1 through November, are counted as fall pigs. Sometimes, however, the December-January-February pigs are called winter pigs, and June-July-August pigs are called summer pigs.

In the ten states farmers reported that they would have 2,324,000 sows to farrow in the summer season, June, July and August. This number would be 4 percent less than the number that farrowed last summer. Actual farrowings, of course, may be considerably different from what farmers reported early in March.

Illinois farmers are increasing their share of the market for hogs. They produced 11.5 percent of the nation's hogs in the ten years 1948-57 and 12.4 percent last year. In the corn belt alone, Illinois farmers produced 16.5 percent of the winter pigs in 1949-58 and 17.5 percent this year.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

WILL FARMERS PLANT TOO MUCH CORN IN 1960?

URBANA, ILLINOIS MARCH 30, 1960

All winter long we have been hearing and reading stories that farmers were planning big increases in corn acreages this year. Reliable figures on farmers' plans are now available from the U.S.D.A. report on Prospective Plantings for 1960, released March 18. The figures do not provide much support for these popular winter tales. They do show that farmers in the corn belt are planning small increases in corn plantings, while other farmers will plant less.

The official report contains 34 pages and covers 16 major crops in 48 states. It is one of the regular annual reports that have been compiled and published by the U.S.D.A. for many years.

The report shows that farmers in Illinois planned to plant 10,362,000 acres of corn, or only 3 percent more than last year. Farmers in other corn-belt states reported plans to increase corn acreages as follows: Iowa, 3 percent; Missouri, 6 percent; Ohio, Indiana and Nebraska, 1 percent. Minnesota reported no change.

These increases were offset by cuts in corn acreages planned in southern and western states. The total U. S. planned acreage is 85,758,000, or 3/10 percent more than last year. That is too small to be statistically significant.

As would be expected, the corn is being moved to the higher yielding areas. This trend has been under way for many years.

Illinois farmers plan to grow a record share of the nation's corn acreage in 1960. They plan to plant 10,362,000 acres this year, which would be 12.1 percent of the U. S. total acreage of corn. Last year Illinois farmers planted 11.8 percent of the corn, and in the 10 years 1949-58 they planted 11.1 percent. Thirty years ago, in 1930, Illinois farmers planted 9,353,000 acres, which was only 9.0 percent of the nation's corn fields. On a percentage basis, the Illinois share of the corn acreage has increased by one-third in the past 30 years. This increase is important to Illinois farmers, since corn is our most profitable major crop.

(Continued)

While corn acreage has been increasing in Illinois, it has been decreasing in the nation as a whole. Nationally corn acreage reached its peak in 1932, when 113 million acres were planted. The less than 86 million acres planned this year is 24 percent less than was planted in 1932.

While U. S. farmers have planned to hold the corn acreage at last year's level, they are planning to cut the acreage of oats by 5 percent and the acreage of barley by 4 percent. They reported that they would hold sorghum plantings at the 1959 level.

Soybean acreage, they said, would be increased by 6 percent. Such an increase is not unusual for soybeans. They planned to cut spring wheat seedings by 9 percent. The acreage of winter wheat, seeded last fall, is about the same as that of a year ago.

The late spring may cut into intended seeding of spring small grains and thus cause farmers to plant more corn than they reported in March.

If farmers plant corn as they reported, and if yields are equal to the high average of the past five years, total production will be about 4.0 billion bushels, or 8 percent less than last year.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS
APRIL 20, 1960

CATTLE ON FEED INCREASE 8 PERCENT

Eight percent more cattle were on feed April 1 than on that date last year, according to a recent USDA report. For the 21 states having comparable figures for 1959, the number on feed April 1, 1960, totaled 6,401,000 compared with 5,939,000 a year ago.

WESTERN STATES INCREASE 17 PERCENT. Again the western states had the largest increase--17 percent. California led the western group with 34 percent and ranked fourth among all states with 496,000 head on feed. The north-central states had an over-all increase of only 6 percent. Iowa, which led in numbers, was up 11 percent over last year with 1,605,000 head on feed. Nebraska, with 680,000, was down 1 percent but still ranked second. Illinois ranked third with 653,000, up 4 percent.

WEIGHT OF CATTLE. The percentage distribution in the various weight groups was similar to that of last year. Only in the 500- to 699-pound category was there a decrease--from 37 to 34 percent. The group weighing less than 500 pounds made up 7 percent of the total, the same as last year; and the 700- to 899-pound group composed 30 percent this year compared with 27 percent last year. Percentage of the two heavier groups was the same each year, the 900- to 1,099-pound group accounting for 24 percent and those 1,100 pounds and over accounting for the remaining 5 percent. The length of time the cattle had been on feed was also similar to last year.

KIND ON FEED. In the 21 states, 70 percent of the cattle were steers and steer calves compared with 72 percent last year. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 29 percent this year and 27 percent last year. Cows and others accounted for the remaining 1 percent.

MARKETING INTENTIONS. Cattle feeders in the 21 states expect to market 53 percent of their April 1, 1960, inventory during April, May and June. If they carry out these intentions, marketings for this quarter will be 19 percent above the number marketed last year.

Marketings of fed cattle for the January-March quarter this year exceeded those of last year by 9 percent.

At this time last year, prices of fed cattle started a decline that continued generally throughout the rest of the year. The average price of choice steers at Chicago during the week of April 16 last year was $30.80 (the high for the year). The high at Chicago so far this year came during the week of March 10, when prices of choice steers averaged $28.23.

It is unlikely that prices of fed cattle will decline so sharply as they did last year. Prices are now at a lower level. Less competition from pork and a slightly stronger demand will help to strengthen the market in the next few months.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO WITH WHEAT?

URBANA, ILLINOIS APRIL 27, 1960

Old Man Congress has a "bear by the tail"--wheat! But his grip is slipping. And he is trying to find a safe way to let go--or to get a tighter grip.

Congress is considering half a dozen bills. These bills have various and conflicting goals such as (1) getting more money for wheat growers, (2) reducing costs to government, and (3) reducing international irritations caused by our surplus disposal programs.

Wheat is, perhaps, our biggest agricultural problem. Congress and the public, including many farmers, are concerned about the costs of the present wheat price programs. Many growers are dissatisfied with prices, or their acreage allotments--or both.

The problem is too big for a full discussion here, but we can list some of the basic facts about the markets for our wheat. Any wheat program will have to deal with these facts.

PRODUCTION. Over the five years ending next June 30, our average annual production of wheat was 1,096 million bushels. This provided 99 percent of our supply. The other one percent, about 9 million bushels a year, was imported from Canada. This was mostly low-grade feed wheat.

USED FOR FOOD--44 PERCENT. The average annual use of wheat for food in the United States in the five-year period was 486 million bushels, or 44 percent of the production. For many years the annual use of wheat for food has held very close to this figure. The increase in population has been offset by decreasing use of bread and other foods made from wheat. If consumers were willing, Congress could establish higher prices for wheat used for food in this country. This would not materially reduce the domestic use of wheat for food. But U. S. consumers already pay about 50 cents a bushel more than foreign buyers. Costs of any further increases would fall heaviest on the lower-income families, because they spend a larger share of their incomes for bread.

FOR SEED--6 PERCENT. An average of 64 million bushels was used each year for seed, 6 percent of production. The amount used for seed varies a little from time to time, depending upon the acreage planted.

FOR FEED--5 PERCENT. The average annual use of wheat for feed was 54 million bushels, or 5 percent of production. The amount used for feed ranged from 39 million bushels in 1957-58 to 73 million in 1958-59. The amount used depends upon the quality of wheat and local crop conditions. Relatively larger amounts of wheat were used for feed before the government priced it out of the market. Raising prices of feed wheat would reduce consumption still further, since many other feeds are available to feed manufacturers and to farmers.

FOR EXPORT--40 PERCENT. Average annual exports of wheat during these latest five years were 442 million bushels, or 40 percent of production. India is by far the biggest buyer. Eight other countries each took 10 million to 40 million bushels, and 30 countries took 1 million to 10 million bushels each. About one-third of these export sales were made at prices 50 to 60 cents a bushel less than U. S. market prices, and two-thirds were disposals under P. L. 480 "foreign aid" programs. Congress has no way of forcing foreign nations to pay more for our wheat. They can buy from other exporters--Canada, Russia, Argentina, Australia, France, Italy, Turkey, and other exporting countries.

The above uses took 95 percent of the wheat produced in the past five years. The remaining 5 percent was added to carry-over stocks.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAY 4, 1960

National income is expected to remain near the present relatively high level during 1960. However, there is no sector in the economy that shows prospects of initiating or supporting boom conditions. Prices of individual farm products will be affected more by the supply situation of the particular commodity than by any change in the domestic demand.

Exports of farm products in 1959 and to date in 1960 were much above recent levels, largely because of a severe drouth in Europe last summer and a high level of business activity in the industrial nations of the world. A high level of business activity is expected to continue in 1960 in England, Continental Europe, and Japan, but agricultural output probably will increase in both importing and some exporting countries. The export demand for farm products is likely to decline.

Residential construction is likely to hold up well, partly as the result of government efforts to make financing easier. Inasmuch as there is no real deficit of residential housing, no boom in housing is likely. In fact, expenditures for housing will tend to decline unless given a shot-in-the-arm through changes in the terms of FHA loans.

The expected boom in 1960 was dependent to a considerable extent on an increase of expenditures by business concerns on new plant and equipment. Early plans called for a rise of 14 percent in plant and equipment expenditures in 1960. If attained, this increase will be a sustaining force in 1960.

The prosperity of 1959 was partially built on an expansion of inventories and a substantial rise in debt. Inventories are now at a relatively high level, and no production for the purpose of building up inventories to still higher levels is expected for 1960. In fact, liquidation of inventories is likely to occur in the latter half of the year. This would tend to reduce factory output and employment.

(Continued)

Consumer debt may rise further, but there is little prospect of any substantial easing of credit conditions unless a recession is feared. Debt repayment now requires a substantial fraction of consumers' incomes. With the threat of inflation eased, there is less inducement to "buy now" in anticipation of higher prices.

Inflation by way of rising wage rates forcing increases in selling prices is definitely checked. Competition from foreign producers in both the export market and here forces U. S. manufacturers to watch costs. Labor efficiency appears to be increasing.

Last but not least important, both our industrial and agricultural capacity are so large at present that no substantial rise in prices is probable.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

HOG PRICES LIKELY TO WORK UPWARD

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAY 11, 1960

The hog market made a good recovery from its early winter low. Some further rise is likely during the next 60 days, but the timing and extent of the advance are uncertain.

The biggest share of the 1959 fall pig crop has been marketed. Eighty percent of these fall pigs were farrowed before October 1. The youngest were seven months old by the end of April and will be eight months old by the end of May. Most hogs are marketed at seven or eight months of age, although some are ready for market at six months or even less.

Only 13 percent of the fall pigs were farrowed in October and 7 percent in November. The October percentage was less than normal, and the November share was about average. These figures point to small market supplies of barrows and gilts during the next 60 days.

Marketings of sows increase during May and June, partly offsetting the decrease in the marketings of barrows and gilts. Total output of pork typically declines to around July 4 and then increases as the winter pigs are sent to market.

The number of pigs on farms in nine corn-belt states was 18 percent less on March 1 than it was a year before. This indicates that market supplies may be 10 to 20 percent smaller this summer than they were last year. Prices may be correspondingly improved over 1959 levels.

Last year prices of barrows and gilts at Chicago averaged $16.09 a hundred pounds in May, $15.91 in June and $14.40 in July.

This year prices are expected to trend upward during the summer, somewhat as they did in 1958 and in 1957. In 1958 the monthly average price went up from $22.03 in May to $23.12 in July. In 1957 the rise was from $18.24 in May to $20.79 in July. Since we start from a lower level of prices this year, the peak may not be so high as it was in those two years.

(Continued)

The present market outlook suggests that it will be profitable to feed hogs to 220 to 230 pounds for sale at most markets. It seems to be a good gamble that the general price level for hogs will rise enough to offset any price discounts on account of weight up to 230 pounds. This may not be true, however, of all markets.

Last year in May and June at the terminal markets used by Illinois farmers, prices for hogs averaged 15 to 30 cents a hundred pounds lower for 220- to 240-pound weights than for 200- to 220-pound hogs.

Looking further ahead, prices seem likely to hold up well for several months, probably through all of 1961. But this hog cycle may be shorter than the previous one. In that cycle, hog prices stayed above the $16 level most of the time for 38 months, from May 1956 through June 1959.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

THE CORN SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAY 18, 1960

Prices of the 1959 corn crop have moved about as was expected. The rise from harvest to April was 10 to 15 cents a bushel. From October through March, prices averaged about 2 cents a bushel lower than the year before. But where the March to April rise was around 9 cents last year, it was only 5 cents this year.

Prices rose only slightly after April last year, the average Illinois farm price reaching $1.19 in June.

Last year prices during the summer were about 10 cents above the levels of the previous winter. A similar difference may prevail this year.

Supply and disappearance. The supply of corn on farms April 1 of this year was estimated at 2,088 million bushels, 15 percent more than the year before. But farmers are rapidly using and selling their corn. Disappearance during the quarter ended April 1 was 1,006 million bushels, nearly 15 percent more than in the previous year.

Price support. Farmers had 26 percent of their corn under price support on April 1 this year compared with only 25 percent a year before. The general support level is $1.12 this year compared with $1.06 last year. The support rate for the 1960 crop will be not less than $1.06.

Exports. Exports of corn from October 1 to May 6 totaled about 127 million bushels, about 4 percent more than a year before. Export shipments are being made with subsidies of only 1 to 2 cents a bushel. This means that our corn prices now are virtually on an international value basis.

CCC sales. The Commodity Credit Corporation has reported sales of 51 million bushels from October 1 to May 6. This amount is 46 percent less than was sold by the CCC in the same period a year before.

1960 acreage. In March the government survey of farmers reported that they intended to plant 86 million acres, or about the same as in 1959. Some seed companies reported larger sales than in 1959, but some of the increase may reflect a stepping-up of purchase dates and intentions to plant more kernels per acre.

tended for spring grains may be planted to corn. On the other hand, farmers may plow up less hay and pasture than they would have if conditions had been more favorable.

Competing crops. Oats were seeded about two weeks later than usual, and cooler than average weather has retarded growth. Yields may be low.

Barley seeding in the heavy producing northern states (North Dakota, Minnesota and Montana) was also late.

Conditions seem to be favorable in the big sorghum grain areas of Texas, Kansas and Nebraska.

Illinois. Our state seems to be in a favorable position in the corn market. In April our average price was $1.09 a bushel. This was 17 cents over Iowa, 25 cents over Minnesota and 12 cents over Nebraska. Part of these differences reflect lower quality corn this year in the other states. The Illinois average price was equal to that of Indiana and only 1 cent below Ohio.

In the southern and eastern states, to which we ship large amounts of corn, prices were about 20 cents a bushel over Illinois levels.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAY 25, 1960

HOW MUCH DO "FARM PROGRAMS" COST?

The office of Budget and Finance recently published a detailed tabulation of costs of various programs for the United States Department of Agriculture over a period of 10 years, including estimates for the years ending June 30 of this year and June 30, 1961.

In this tabulation the Department's programs are divided into two major groups: (1) programs predominantly for the benefit of farmers and (2) programs having multiple benefits to the general public. We will list the various programs of the United States Department of Agriculture and their estimated cost for the fiscal year 1960 (i.e., ending June 30).

PROGRAMS FOR FARMERS. Expenditures for the agricultural conservation program will be about $244 million.

Soil bank programs are taking $5 million for the acreage reserve program and about $365 million for the conservation reserve program.

Price-support programs include loans made, $1,239 million; commodity purchases, $2,003 million; storage, handling and transportation, $774 million; interest and operating expenses, $513 million; and other program net expense, $103 million. These outlays will total about $4,632 million, but the net cost to the United States Treasury will be reduced by about $2,804 million, proceeds from the sale of commodities. Another $29 million is subtracted because it represents payments to the Veterans' Administration and the armed services for purchases of dairy products in excess of their normal requirements. Net cost of the CCC price-support program thus is set at $2,734 million.

The National Wool Act program will take about $94 million this fiscal year ending June 30. Acreage allotments and marketing quota administrative expenses will be about $41 million. The Sugar Act program will require $74 million.

The total net cost of these programs which are primarily for the benefit of farmers will be around $2,622 million this year. This compares with $3,957 million last year.

PROGRAMS HAVING MULTIPLE BENEFITS. Programs having foreign relations and defense aspects include sales of surplus agricultural commodities for foreign currencies which are

taking $1,055 million. The program of famine relief in friendly foreign countries will take $115 million. International wheat agreement commitments cost $49 million. Transfer of bartered materials to supplemental stockpile costs $237 million. Payments to the Veterans' Administration and armed services for buying dairy products in excess of normal requirements, $29 million. Foreign currencies used by the military, $5 million.

Food distribution programs. The school lunch program is taking $154 million; the school milk program, $80 million; and other surplus food and disposal programs, $108 million.

REA and FHA loans, which are subject to repayment, are taking $325 million for the Rural Electrification Administration and $251 million for the Farmers Home Administration.

Programs for the improvement of agricultural resources, including research, meat inspection, disease and pest control, education, and regulation of markets, etc. Expenditures for the year ending June 30 are estimated as follows: Forest Service, $208 million; Agricultural Research Service, $172 million; Soil Conservation Service, $130 million; Extension Service, $64 million; marketing research and service (AMS), $40 million; Farmers Home Administration expenses, $31 million; and other expenses (including expenses of the Farmer Cooperative Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, Commodities Exchange Authority, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and Rural Electrification Administration), $31 million.

The total cost of these multiple-benefit programs for this year is estimated at $3,084 million, compared with $3,134 million a year ago.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS JUNE 1, 1960

FARMLAND PRICES SHOW MIXED TRENDS

Illinois Only State Not Showing Increase in 12 Months

Farmland values in Illinois seem to have leveled off. According to a recent survey by the United States Department of Agriculture, average prices of Illinois farmland rose about 1 percent in the spring of 1959 and then settled back the same amount during the fall and winter.

The U.S.D.A. figures are state averages, but there are important variations from these averages. For example, much of the 1 percent decline reported since last summer may be due to a decrease in number of sales of central Illinois land at extremely high prices--$600 to $800 an acre. Such sales often involved 80 acres or other relatively small holdings to be added to neighboring farms.

Some reporters can see no change in prices for average-good farms, even in central Illinois. Reports from the northern and southern parts of the state generally show little or no price decline. Land values in southern Illinois are supported by rapidly rising yields and by comparatively favorable earnings-to-cost relationships. In northern Illinois land values receive support from rapidly expanding industrial and population centers.

Nation-wide, farmland values rose 1 percent from November to March, according to the U.S.D.A. survey and report. Average prices were 3 percent higher in March this year than a year ago. This 3 percent increase was spread evenly over the entire 12 months.

Among the 48 states for which records are available, Illinois was alone in showing no increase in land values from March 1959 to March 1960. Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota and Nebraska showed a 1 percent rise. Indiana, Michigan, Missouri and North Dakota reported a 2 percent increase; and Iowa and Kansas, 3 percent. In most of the other states--east, south and west--prices advanced 3 to 7 percent in the 12 months ended with March.

(Continued)

Price changes during the latest reporting period--that is, November to March--differed significantly in the eastern and the western halves of the country. In most states in the western half, average prices rose 1 to 3 percent. In the Great Plains and Pacific Coast states, increases averaged 2 to 3 percent; and in the Rocky Mountain states, 1 percent.

In the eastern half, prices generally ranged from 2 percent down to 2 percent up.

Three states--Minnesota, Missouri and Maine--reported 2 percent decreases. Illinois, Iowa, Florida and North Carolina listed 1 percent drops. Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and New York reported no change. Wisconsin, Kentucky and several southern and eastern states had 1 percent increases. Three states in the eastern half of the nation, Arkansas, Georgia and Pennsylvania, reported increases in land values averaging 2 percent in the four months ending with March.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS JUNE 8, 1960

THE SOYBEAN SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Supplies of soybeans will be small by harvest time. A short crop could give the market price a big lift. But we have no reason to expect a short crop.

Present supplies and rates of disappearances point to a carry-over of around 40 million bushels. This amount would be a third less than the carry-over last fall and would be enough to supply processors and exporters for only four weeks.

Soybean production increased each year from 1953 to 1958 as harvests went up from 269 million bushels to 580 million. The 1959 crop was 7 percent smaller, at 538 million bushels. Soybean production has decreased two years in a row only once since records have been kept, and that was back in 1932 and 1933. Total output at that time was under 20 million bushels a year. Out of 31 recorded crops, 20 have been record-breakers.

We began this marketing year with a supply of 600 million bushels, the same as the year before. Crushings from October 1 through April are estimated at 238 million bushels, or 2 percent less than in the previous year. Exports were a record high, 84 million bushels, or 23 percent more than in the same period last year. The supply above seed requirements on May 1 was estimated at 243 million compared with 262 million a year before. From here on out, crushings and exports are figured to be about equal to those of last year.

Processor's margins have been smaller than usual this year. Farmers have received a larger share of the total value of soybean products than they did in 1958-59.

Through April 30, farmers had placed 52 million bushels of 1959-crop beans under price support. A year before they placed 140 million under Uncle Sam's hat but delivered only 83 million to the CCC. Of this amount the CCC sold 39 million, or nearly half, before October 1.

The CCC selling prices average $2.05 a bushel, or 20 cents over the present support level at point of storage. This selling price is expected to be continued through September. Thus

(Continued)

government sales may be a "stabilizing" influence on the market during the remainder of this marketing year.

Price support loans on soybeans became due and payable on May 31. The CCC immediately took over all unredeemed beans stored in public warehouses, but farmers can redeem farm-stored beans at any time before their actual delivery to the CCC. The amount of beans actually taken over by CCC may be no more than 10 million bushels.

The market for soybeans receives very little lift from government price support operations this year. The CCC will sell more beans than it will take off the market. Foreign buyers furnish the biggest support. They will take a total of about 125 million bushels. These sales are being made with no subsidies.

The soybean market receives a little indirect aid from subsidized exports of soybean oil under P.L. 480. But present prices of beans are a good indication of their real value in international markets.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

SUMMER CONDITIONS MAY CHECK DECLINE OF CATTLE PRICES

URBANA, ILLINOIS JUNE 15, 1960

The recent weakness in cattle prices has brought several inquiries about market conditions and price prospects.

So far this year prices of choice cattle have followed about the same patterns as in the past two years. That is, prices rose during the winter and declined in the spring. As was expected, however, prices have generally been $1 to $2 lower in 1958 and 1959.

The lower prices reflect the cyclical increase in marketings since the first of the year. Farmers cut their sales of calves for slaughter in 1958 and 1959. The extra calves kept back in 1958 have appeared as slaughter cattle on the markets this year.

Farmers and ranchers had 18.5 million calves not being kept for milk on January 1, 1958; 19.7 million on January 1, 1959; and 21.1 million at the beginning of this year.

We began this year with 11.0 million steers, 8 percent more than the year before. We had 7.4 million heifers not being kept for milk, 9 percent more than one year before.

Farmers began this year with 9 percent more cattle on feed than they had at the beginning of 1959. By April 1, they still had 8 percent more cattle on feed than a year ago. At that time farmers indicated intentions to market a greater than usual percentage of their cattle before July 1. Although actual marketings were rather light in April, they increased sharply in May, making total beef output during the first five months of this year about 8 percent larger than last year.

In-shipments of replacement cattle have been rather light since January 1, but this was a natural reaction to the heavy movement last fall. Cattle put on weight, however, whether they are in the corn belt or in the west.

On June 1 the number of cattle on feed in the big feedlots in California and Arizona was estimated at 848,000 head, 16 percent more than a month before.

Consumer demand for beef is strong, and it appears likely to hold up well during the summer vacation season. By next fall, however, there may be more concern about business prospects, and consumer demand.

The supply of pork will be comparatively small this summer, since farmers saved about one-fifth fewer pigs in the December-February quarter than they did the year before. Pork supplies will continue on the short side during the fall.

Last year, the monthly average price of choice steers declined from $30.33 per hundred pounds in April to $25.57 in December. This $4.76 decline came in two steps--from April to July and from September to December.

In 1958 prices of choice steers declined from $29.90 in March to $26.11 in August. The decline was $3.79 a hundred pounds. Prices regained about $1.00 before the year-end.

Our best monthly price so far this year has been $28.08, so a $4 decline would let the price down to about $24. This would be only $1.60 lower than the low month last year, and $2.10 less than the low month in 1958.

The price decline this year may come in two steps, as it did in 1959. The shortage of pork and the vacation boom should provide some support this summer. Autumn will bring more pork, probably more cattle, and possibly some slowing of business activity, with a leveling-off of consumer demand.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

U. S. PRICES REFLECT FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

URBANA, ILLINOIS JUNE 22, 1960

Developments around the world in recent months may have unleashed new inflationary forces. These developments include the swing toward communism in Cuba, the regression of U. S.-Russian relations, the racial conflicts in Africa, the revolution in Turkey, the canal demonstrations in Panama and the anti-American riots in Japan.

This progression of events calls for some revision of our plans for national security. It has produced strong demands for increasing government expenditures for defense.

In addition, there are in our own country increasing demands for bigger government spending for welfare and to stimulate "economic growth."

Political disturbances and international conflict are inflationary because they disrupt production and transportation and often increase the demand for commodities. Some of the major price rises in the United States have been associated with civil or foreign wars.

Prices of several important commodities show advances from their lows of earlier months. The price of natural rubber has climbed to 46 1/2 cents a pound, up 36 percent from a year ago. Most of the world's rubber supply is produced in Indonesia and Malaya. Other industrial materials that have shown important price increases include tin, which is produced largely in Malaya, Bolivia and Africa; copper, produced in the restless areas of Africa; burlap, obtained from India and Pakistan; and silk, produced in Japan.

Prices of fats and oils have also gone up. Soybean oil has increased to 83-84 cents a pound, or 17 percent over its low in early March. Cottonseed oil has climbed to 10 5/8 cents, or 18 percent above its low last December. Lard has moved up to 9 cents a pound, 29 percent over its January low.

On the bearish side of the market is the fact that U. S. industrial production and business activity are not reaching the high levels foreseen last winter by the optimists. Steel production is

way down. Automobile stocks are high. The aircraft industry is not getting the new orders that it needs. Housing isn't booming either.

The index of industrial production in May was 110 (1957 - 100), only 1 point better than a year ago.

Corporation profits for the second quarter are falling below the level of last year. This dip does not encourage businessmen to increase their spending for new plants and equipment.

One big danger spot is the growing personal and family debt. Farmers, for example, now owe $24 billion, twice as much as they owed 10 years ago. Other people now owe $190 billion, or over three times as much as 10 years ago. Thus it appears that the prosperity of the 1950s, like that of the 1920s, was built upon expanding credit.

This situation raises some questions: Can our debts get too big? If so, when will they become too big? And what happens then?

One thing seems certain: The future is uncertain, but it will be interesting.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

HOG PRICE PROSPECTS SOAR

URBANA, ILLINOIS JUNE 29, 1960

Farmers cut the spring pig crop much more than they had indicated earlier. According to the USDA report, they saved 49.1 million pigs between December 1 and June 30. This was 16 percent less than were saved last year. Last December they reported that they would cut production only 11 percent.

The 1960 spring pig crop is the smallest, in relation to population, since the drouth years of the 1930s.

The 1960 fall pig crop will not be cut so much. Farmers in early June reported plans to cut the 1960 fall pig crop only 3 percent below that of last year. Their intentions pointed to a fall pig crop of about 41.5 million head. That would provide less pork in relation to population than we had in either of the past two years, but more than in any of the other years back to 1951.

Hog slaughter will be unusually small in the July-August-September quarter. The reason is that the number of pigs 3 to 6 months old on farms in nine corn-belt states on June 1 was 19 percent smaller than a year earlier.

The scarcity of pork will continue on into the October-November-December quarter. The number of pigs under 3 months old on farms June 1 was 15 percent less than a year before.

The scarcity of pork in the last half of this year will be partly offset by record supplies of poultry and by record, or near-record, supplies of beef.

Consumer buying power is expected to increase a little this fall, but the increase may not be so much as has occurred in some recent years.

The prospective supply and demand situation should support a very profitable level of prices to hog producers during the last half of this year.

(Continued)

As a target, let's say that prices should equal the average of the three years 1956-1958. In the last half of those three years, the average price of farrows and gilts at eight leading terminal markets in the corn belt was a little over $18.00 a hundred pounds.

The average price in the three Julys was a bit over $20.00; the Augusts, a bit under $20.00; Septembers, $18.35; Octobers, $17.25; Novembers, $16.70; and Decembers, $17.65.

Prices this year may, of course, be higher or lower than these figures. The supply of pork available to each person will be smaller than it was in any one of the three years 1956-1958. But costs of marketing hogs and of processing and distributing pork are up from the previous levels.

The monthly distribution of spring farrowings suggests that prices may average higher in August or at least in early August, than they will in July.

Weather conditions will be important in determining the pattern of prices. Extremely hot weather in the corn belt reduces the rate of gain and delays marketings. Hot, humid weather in the big consuming centers reduces the demand for pork.

The outlook seems to call for feeding programs for winter pigs that will get cheapest, rather than fastest, gains. The same applies to late spring pigs.

Hogs weighing under 200 pounds will be discounted, especially in the late summer. Most markets will pay top prices for hogs with good hams and loins and weighing 210 to 230 pounds.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

BUSINESS IS GOOD, BUT PROSPECTS ARE UNCERTAIN

URBANA, ILLINOIS
JULY 6, 1960

The business situation and outlook is about "normal." That is, business could be better, and the outlook is uncertain.

Employment and unemployment figures show a fairly favorable picture. In May, 67.2 million persons were working for pay or profit. That number was nearly 2 percent more than were working the year before.

Unemployment was calculated at 3.5 million, or 4.9 percent of the labor force. This percentage is the same as in May the year before. We usually have 3 to 4 percent of our workers unemployed even in boom times. In the recession year of 1958, unemployment in May totaled 4.9 million, or 6.8 percent of the labor force. In the Great Depression of the 1930s, 15 to 25 percent of the labor force was unemployed for 10 years.

Personal income reached an annual rate of $399 billion in May. It has increased about 14 percent in 2 1/2 years. Most of this increase is real, though some of it is simply inflation.

Most recent business forecasts were optimistic. This is "normal" too, since most of the talkers were either businessmen looking for sales, or necessarily hopeful government officials.

One strong prop under business is the spending for new plants and equipment. These outlays are running at an annual rate of $37 billion a year, up about one-fourth from the 1958 recession low.

Consumers, too, have been "living it up." Department store sales have been running about 2 percent ahead of 1959 figures. And a near-record number of automobiles have been sold this year.

But maybe consumers have been spending too much. Short- and intermediate-term consumer debts increased 14 percent in the past year and now total nearly $53 billion. Consumers may soon become so loaded with debts that they will have to slow up their buying for a while.

Business inventories are large and still growing. Stocks in warehouses are probably worth about $94 billion, at least $1 billion greater than in 1957, before the 1958 recession. Stocks of

automobiles and steel especially are large. When business inventories get too big, output must be reduced while stocks are worked off.

In a sense, both consumers and businessmen are loaded with merchandise. They may go on overspending for a few months, but accounts and stocks must be balanced up fairly soon. This is not a climate that induces business to spend more money to build more capacity.

Public spending is not increasing so fast as it has in recent years. Federal spending has trended downward in the past 12 months. It is not yet clear how much the road program and defense outlays can be speeded up within the next 12 months.

State and local government spending is still increasing, but probably not so fast as in recent years. This is not because we have enough new schools, roads and streets, but because citizens have been voting down proposed bond issues and tax increases.

In many ways the 1950s were like the 1920s. In both decades private citizens and state and local governments took on big new loads of debt. It does not necessarily follow, however, that the 1960s will bring another Great Depression such as engulfed our nation (and most others) in the 1930s.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

1960 CORN CROP MAY BE LESS THAN NEEDS

URBANA, ILLINOIS JULY 13, 1960

The 1960 corn crop seems likely to fall well short of the record crop of 1959. Production for this year is officially forecast at 4,079 million bushels, a reduction of 278 million bushels, or 7 percent below last year, though 7 percent over 1958. But the 1958 crop was produced under acreage restrictions, while those of 1959 and 1960 were not restricted.

Of course, the 1960 corn crop is not yet in the crib, and it may be larger or smaller than the July forecast. But, as the forecast stands, it is about equal to the amount of corn that is being used in this country and exported this year.

The forecast of smaller corn production this year is based partly on a smaller acreage and partly on lower yields.

The land planted to corn this year is estimated at 83,680,000 acres, which is 1 percent less than last year. The average yield is forecast at 48.7 bushels per acre, 2.8 bushels less than last year.

Many farmers in Illinois and Iowa will think that average yields will be cut much more than 2.8 bushels an acre. Some farmers in central, western and northern Illinois and in southeastern Iowa might be happy to settle for half a crop.

A short corn crop this year would not have much price-lifting influence because of the large carryover of old corn. The carryover next October 1 may be near 1,900 million bushels, or one-fourth more than last fall. This increased carryover may more than offset the cut in production this year. If so, the corn supply for next year would be larger than it is this year.

The CCC will be selling some corn in the next marketing year, though perhaps mainly corn that is in poor condition. Such sales plus the 1960 crop may still be more than will be required for domestic uses and for exports. This would tend to hold prices near the support level.

If the market price of corn sags seriously this fall, farmers might put enough under price support to pull prices back up to or above recent levels by this time next year.

It is an important fact that since last fall corn prices have been very nearly at world export values. From last October 1 through June 30, about 160 million bushels of corn was sold to foreign countries. These sales were made with only very small export subsidies. This is a good indication of what prices might be without price supports.

MORE SOYBEAN PLANTED. Farmers have planted 24,430,000 acres of soybeans this year, 5 percent more than in 1959. No official estimate of yields will be made until August. But growing conditions seem to be less favorable than last year. Acre yields may fall enough to offset most of the increase in acreage planted. Production this year could be no more than the 538 million bushels harvested last year.

The carryover of old beans will be much smaller than last year, perhaps half as much as the 62 million bushels carried over last fall.

The total supply of beans for the next marketing year seems likely to be less than the 600 million available in this present year.

The soybean market now accurately reflects international values. From last October 1 through June 30, some 112 million bushels of soybeans were purchased by foreign buyers. These deals were made entirely without export subsidies.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS JULY 20, 1960

OUTLOOK FOR CATTLE PRICES IMPROVES

The outlook for cattle prices seems to be improving, especially in the corn belt. This conclusion is drawn mainly from a study of the important quarterly report of cattle (including calves) on feed July 1, which was recently released in Washington.

As of July 1, farmers in 21 reporting states were feeding 5,376,000 head of cattle, only 4 percent more than the year before. Most of this increase was in California and other western states. Farmers in 13 north-central (corn-belt) states were feeding 3,719,000 cattle, only 1 percent more (this percentage is not exact). Cattlemen in 8 western states were feeding 1,657,000 head, or 11 percent more.

The increase in cattle on feed was about equally divided between steers and heifers, but the proportion of heifers to steers has increased. Heifers made up 29 percent of the total this year compared with 28 percent the year before. Steers made up 70 percent this year and 71 percent a year ago. Cows and other "critters" accounted for 1 percent in both years.

Most of the increase in steer numbers was in the 500- to 700-pound range. This year 15 percent were in this weight group compared with 12 percent last year. The 700- to 900-pound group included 39 percent of all steers this year and 41 percent last year. Proportions of steers in other weight groups were unchanged. About 3 percent weighed under 500 pounds; 32 percent, 900 to 1,100 pounds; and 11 percent, over 1,100 pounds.

Most of the increase in heifers on feed was also in the 500- to 700-pound range. There were smaller increases in numbers of heifers weighing under 500 pounds and over 900 pounds. There was a moderate reduction in the group weighing 700 to 900 pounds. Proportions of heifers in the various weight ranges were: under 500 pounds, 5 percent; 500 to 700 pounds, 35 percent; 700 to 900 pounds, 51 percent; and 900 to 1,100 pounds, 9 percent.

(Continued)

The government report indicated that farmers in 21 states would sell about 3,118,000 head of cattle from July through September. This is 6 percent more than last year. If sales come up to expectations, the number remaining for market after October 1 will be only 1 percent larger than in 1959.

The foregoing report on marketings applies only to cattle on feed July 1. Some cattle put on feed after July 1 will be marketed before the year end.

Another point to remember is that fed cattle provide only 60 to 65 percent of our beef. The other 35 to 40 percent, which grades lower than Good, comes from cows and other cattle sold without a feeding-fattening period. Marketings of non-fed cattle always increase moderately in this stage of the cattle cycle.

To sum up the situation: marketings of fed cattle will be only a little larger during the remainder of this year than last year. The increased supply of cattle may be sold without much further price decline because the supply of pork will be very short and consumers will have a record amount of buying power.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

1960 CALF CROP 41,646,000 HEAD-- ONLY 1 1/2 PERCENT MORE THAN 1959

URBANA, ILLINOIS JULY 27, 1960

The beef cattle outlook for 1961 has brightened considerably--the 1960 calf crop is reported to be only 1 1/2 percent larger than that of 1959. This year's calves will provide much of the beef for next year.

The reported increase in the size of the calf crop is less than the growth in population, which is about 1 2/3 percent a year.

The calf crop figure may be slightly in error, perhaps by 1/2 percent or so. But we are probably safe in assuming that the calf crop has not increased significantly more than population.

The total 1960 calf crop is officially estimated at 41,646,000 head. Bigger calf crops were recorded in 1954, 1955 and 1956. The calf crop this year is only 6 percent larger than the 10-year, 1949-1958, average. From the same base, population has increased about 12 percent, or twice as much as the calf crop.

Not all of the calves born this year will live to make beef. Commercial calf slaughter in the first half of this year appears to have been about 2 percent over the 4,745,000 head recorded for a year before. This suggests that the proportion of calves kept for feeding will be no greater than it was last year.

In actual numbers, the increase in calves born from last year to this amounts to 600,000 head. About half of this increase was in Texas and Oklahoma. Smaller increases were reported from New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado. No significant increases were reported for any other sections of the country.

We had expected a greater increase in the calf crop than has been reported. According to government reports, farmers and ranchers had 3 percent more cows at the beginning of this year than they had in 1959. Numbers of heifers were up 6 percent. But the slaughter of cows has been running 6 to 7 percent greater this year, and the slaughter of heifers has increased 12 percent.

Imports of cattle are not so great this year as they were in 1959, when our high prices attracted nearly 700,000 head from Canada and Mexico. During the first five months of this year, imports totaled only 352,000 head, or 6 percent less than in the comparable period of 1959.

Trends so far this year indicate that cattle numbers, which increased 5 percent in 1959, may increase only about 3 percent this year. Such an increase would be only about 1 percent more than enough to match population growth.

The report of cattle on feed July 1 was also encouraging. It showed that farmers in 21 leading states were feeding only 4 percent more cattle this year than the year before. Most of this small increase was in the western states. Farmers in the 13 north-central, or corn-belt, states had only 1 percent more cattle on feed July 1 than they had one year ecrlier.

Another point: for the next six months beef will meet relatively little competition from pork in the nation's food stores.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS OUTLOOK LETTER

CORN IS DISAPPEARING MUCH FASTER THAN "EXPERTS" EXPECTED

URBANA, ILLINOIS AUG. 3, 1960

Our big stocks of corn have been the subject of many articles and speeches. Hardly anyone seems to be aware of the more important fact that the corn is being used at a record-busting rate. This high use is all the more significant because farmers are reported to be feeding the smallest number of hogs since 1953.

Last October 1 the carryover of old corn was officially estimated at 1,530 million and the 1959 crop (grain only) at 3,989 million bushels. That made a total supply of 5,520 million bushels. At that time it was widely proclaimed that the carryover of old corn this fall would be 600 million bushels larger than last year.

One major development since last fall would seem to have added even more to the carryover: Instead of increasing hog production as was then expected, farmers cut the 1960 spring pig crop by 16 percent!

But we now have strong evidence that the addition to the carryover will be much less than the 600 million bushels claimed earlier. Total disappearance of corn from last October 1 to July 1 is officially estimated at 2,958 million bushels, over 9 percent more than a year before. These increases in disappearance appear to be the result of several conditions: (1) The quality of much of the 1959 crop was low, (2) farmers fed 8 to 20 percent more cattle and (3) more broilers were produced.

This high rate of disappearance left 2,563 million bushels on hand July 1, or only 355 million more than a year before.

Disappearance of corn in the current fourth quarter will surely be at least as large as it was a year ago. We are still using the same crop of corn. Farmers are feeding 4 percent more cattle than they fed last year. And they are still producing more broilers.

(Continued)

On the other side of the balance, farmers apparently have around 16 percent fewer hogs to feed out than they had a year ago. But the favorable prices for hogs are encouraging them to feed to heavier weights than they did last summer.

A year ago this quarter, the disappearance of corn was 678 million bushels. In the present quarter it seems likely to be around 700 million bushels. If so, total disappearance for the year will be close to 3,660 million bushels. And the addition to the carryover will be only about 330 million bushels, or a little more than half as much as was widely forecast last fall.

The indicated disappearance of corn this year is 31 percent greater than the five-year average. It is greater than production in any other year except 1959. It is only 1 percent short of the official July forecast of the 1960 crop for grain.

Many conditions will favor a rapid disappearance of the 1960 crop: (1) In heavy livestock-feeding areas the crop is late. (2) Beef cattle numbers and poultry production are increasing. (3) Hog prices are good and farmers have reported intentions to increase sow farrowings beginning this fall. And (4) the supplies of oats and barley are a little smaller than they were last year.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS AUG. 10, 1960

PRICES OF FEEDER CATTLE SHOW BIG DROP

The proverbial Texas cattleman may have to get by with only one new Cadillac this year. And the ordinary rancher's wife may get only one new dress. The reason: Prices of feeder cattle have dropped more in the past 12 months than prices of any other major farm product.

In early August prices of Good and Choice steer calves at Kansas City were selling for $26.50 a hundred pounds compared with $33 last year. At the same time Choice 500- to 800-pound steers were bringing $25.40, down from $30.25 in 1959.

Heifer calves, Good and Choice, sold for $23 compared with $30.50 a year before. Choice 500- to 750-pound heifers were going for $22.75, off from $28.25 in 1959.

There are several reasons for the lower prices this year. The most important one is that prices of fat cattle have been trending downward for 15 months. Choice steers at Chicago recently averaged about $25 a hundred pounds, down from $30.33 in April 1958. When prices of fed cattle decline, costs of replacements must drop more than prices of finished cattle if the cattle feeder is to stay in business.

The supply of stocker and feeder cattle and calves is larger than it was 12 months ago. The 1960 calf crop in Texas is estimated at 4,258,000 head, 4 percent more than last year. Four other southern Plains and Mountain States also reported about 4 percent more calves. These states were Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. Other states from which Illinois draws supplies have about the same number of calves as in 1959.

The supply of yearlings in these listed states should be larger too. Last January Texas reported 14 percent more calves under one year on hand than a year earlier. Oklahoma had 6 percent more, Colorado 10 percent and New Mexico 13 percent.

Hay production is 6 percent larger than last year in the 11 Western States and 16 percent greater in the six Plains States. But this bigger new crop is more than offset by a sharp reduction in

the carryover of old hay. The total supply of hay in both Plains and Western States is 1 percent less than last year and 3 percent less than the five-year average. There are sharp reductions in the supply of hay per animal in Kansas, Wyoming and Utah.

Wyoming and Montana had a dry summer. Another drouth area extended from New Mexico eastward across central and south Texas and to the Atlantic Ocean.

There have been some forced sales of cattle because of feed or water shortages. There has been very little contracting of cattle for fall delivery. Ranchers are asking for larger down payments than they got last year, when many buyers forfeited their payments rather than take the cattle after the price dropped sharply.

Prices of fat cattle apparently reached the peak of the current cycle in 1959, when Choice steers at Chicago averaged $27.83. They are running around $2.00 lower this year and seem likely to average around $24.00 in 1961.

Lower prices are expected because farmers and ranchers are still building up their herds. They added 5 million head in 1959 and are adding 3 to 4 million more this year. This is the first year of materially increased slaughter. Slaughter is increasing about 10 percent this year and is expected to increase for at least another two or three years.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

CROP PROSPECTS IMPROVE SLIGHTLY

Total Output Up Only 1 Percent in Two Years

URBANA, ILLINOIS
AUG. 17, 1960

Crop prospects improved a bit in July. The August crop report set the index of crop production for 1960 at 119, which is just one point above last year and 1958. The index is calculated with 1947-49 = 100.

This index of crop production is, of course, a new record. But new records are not news in America. New records are normal. If an industry does not set a new record each year, someone is almost sure to call for a congressional investigation.

The point is that perhaps we should not overpublicize our record-busting, since it is essential to growth and progress, not something to be feared. But let's go back to the farm outlook!

Corn. The total crop is forecast at 4,112 million bushels, 6 percent less than last year. However, a substantial acreage will be used for silage. The production of corn for grain may total no more than 3,750 million bushels. This would be only about 3 percent more than is being used and exported in this marketing year.

All classes of livestock (except horses and mules) are increasing. Thus the consumption of corn in the next marketing year may be about equal to the crop that is harvested this fall.

Soybeans. The 1960 crop is forecast at 548 million bushels. This is 10 million more than last year but is 32 million bushels less than was harvested in 1958. The carryover on October 1 will be around 40 million bushels, down from 62 million a year before. A further reduction in the carryover is in prospect for 1961.

Wheat. The carryover on July 1 was 1,313 million bushels, or only slightly more than the 1,295 million bushels carried over in 1959. But the new crop is estimated at 1,362 million. While this is 21 percent more than in 1959, it is 100 million bushels (or 7 percent) less than was harvested in 1958.

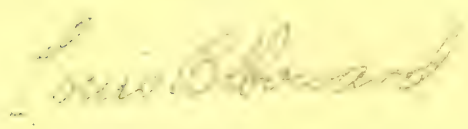
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Our production of wheat is further out of line with needs than is the production of any other farm product. Domestic needs run only about 490 million bushels for food and 64 million for seed. Another 50 million or so are used for livestock and poultry feed. Exports took about 511 million bushels (wheat and flour) in the year ended June 30. Shipments were made to more than 80 countries, but the bulk went to India, Pakistan, Egypt, Poland, United Kingdom (England), Brazil and Turkey. Most of the wheat exported was sold at prices 50 to 70 cents less than U. S. market prices or was essentially given away in various "aid" programs.

Other feed grains. Sorghum grain production is forecast at 539 million bushels, down 7 percent from last year and 12 percent below 1958. The oat crop is estimated at 1,167 million bushels, 9 percent over last year but 10 percent under the 10-year average. Barley output is figured at 411 million bushels, 2 percent less than last year and 13 percent less than two years ago.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

THE ILLINOIS FARM SITUATION SHOWS SOME IMPROVEMENTS

But It Also Shows Some Darker Aspects

URBANA, ILLINOIS AUG. 24, 1960

The farm situation in Illinois has improved in several ways since last year.

Our pastures are much better. In the summer of 1959 pastures in central and southern Illinois were, in official terminology, very poor to severe drouth. Pasture conditions this summer were listed as good to excellent all over the state except in a few counties in the southern part along the Mississippi river. The condition of pastures makes a lot of difference in the incomes of dairy and beef-cattle men.

Our wheat yields were much better this year than in 1959. The official estimate is 29 bushels an acre, 14 percent more than last year.

Oat yields showed an even greater increase. The state average for 1960 is listed at 51 bushels an acre, up 27 percent from 1959. Quality was unusually good this year.

Hog prices have improved substantially this year, whereas they were going down in 1959. Recent prices exceeded 1959 prices by about $2.00 a hundred pounds. Prices are almost sure to be much higher in the last half of this year than last year. Illinois farmers will gain some extra benefit from the price rise, since they apparently did not cut production so much as farmers in most other states.

This year also has some darker aspects for Illinois farmers. The most important one is the corn prospect. It is especially poor in western Illinois, or west of the Illinois river. The state corn yield is officially forecast at 63 bushels, 6 percent less than last year. But many farmers in eastern Illinois and in the southern half of the state have better corn than they had a year ago.

The soybean prospect is not quite so good as it was a year ago. Poorer conditions in the north and west more than offset the better prospect in the south. The official state yield forecast in early August was 26 bushels an acre, 2 percent less than a year before.

Prices of beef cattle are lower than they were a year ago, and they have been lower all this year. So far prices for fat cattle have averaged nearly $2.00 a hundred pounds below 1959. Farmers who bought feeder cattle early last fall, before prices dropped, may make less profit than they did in 1959. Farmers who bought after the decline may do as well as last year, or better.

Recent prices of feeder calves are off $6.00 to $8.00 a hundred pounds from year-before levels. This decline will cut sharply into the incomes of the considerable number of Illinois farmers who produce calves for sale.

The dairy situation has not changed much. In some markets prices are a little better than they were last year. The better pastures this year have been a big help on dairy farms in central and southern Illinois.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS AUG. 31, 1960

PRICE BREAK IMPROVES OUTLOOK FOR HOGS IN 1961

The hog market broke a little earlier and more sharply than we had expected. This is not all bad. It may prevent an excessive increase in the 1961 spring pig crop.

Market supplies of hogs were a little larger during the summer than were indicated by sow farrowings last winter. Then, too, farmers have been putting 7 to 8 more pounds on their hogs than they did a year ago.

Estimated weekly production of pork under federal inspection has been running surprisingly close to the high levels of 1959. Output in the first week of August was down only 10 percent from the year before. The second week was down only 3 percent, and the third week 1 percent. A much larger cut was expected, since the number of pigs saved last winter (December-February) was officially estimated to be 19 percent short of year-before figures.

Now that prices have tumbled, they should be on a fairly firm basis for the remainder of the fall. The fall low seems likely to be reached in November.

The early price decline may cause some farmers to reconsider their plans for 1961 spring farrowings. In a survey last June, farmers said that they planned to begin increasing farrowings in the September-November quarter. The planned increase was 2 percent.

High prices for hogs this fall would have encouraged a larger increase in winter and spring farrowings.

The total 1960 spring pig crop may have been underestimated. The official report showed it to be 16 percent less than that of 1959.

If we accept the estimate as being essentially correct, we could take a substantial increase in spring farrowings in 1961 without producing excessive supplies.

(Continued)

After cutting production 16 percent, farmers must increase nearly 20 percent in order to get back even with where they were before the cut. And they would need to increase more than 3 percent to match population growth in the two years. A total increase of 23 percent would be required to bring the pork supply per person back in line with where it was in 1959. Such big increases have been very rare.

Even if farmers cut hog production less than 16 percent last spring, it would take an unusually large increase in 1961 spring farrowings to bring production back up to excessive levels.

It still pays to have spring pigs early. Or perhaps we should say that winter pigs pay better than spring pigs. Even in years of peak production, hogs sold before October have made fairly good profits.

In years when hog production has reached its peak, the big breaks in prices have come in October, November and December.

In years of steady or decreasing production, most of the price decline has come before mid-October. Therefore, most of the price decline this year may be recorded before farmers finish picking corn.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

THE LAMB SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

URBANA, ILLINOIS SEPT. 7, 1960

Feeding lambs is one of the most speculative of the livestock enterprises. It is much like feeding heavy cattle, since profits generally depend upon getting a higher price for the fat lambs than is paid for the feeder lambs.

On the other hand, returns from a farm breeding flock are consistently good, since lamb prices have not been subject to wide year-to-year fluctuations.

Prices of lambs follow a more consistent seasonal pattern than prices of either hogs or beef cattle. Lamb prices also show less year-to-year, or cyclical, variation than do prices of hogs and cattle.

Prices of lambs usually decline from September to December. They generally work upward to March, level off about April and then rise abruptly to May.

From 1953 through 1959, seven years, the highest monthly average price was in May four times and in June three times. While the over-all June average was not so high as that of May, prices were consistently good in June. Because of the good prices in these months, it pays Illinois flock owners to plan their breeding and feeding programs to have their lambs ready for market in May or early June.

Over the seven years, 1953 to 1959, the lowest monthly average price was in December four times, November once and October twice. The late fall low, and the winter rise in prices, favors winter feeding. Winter feeding was especially profitable last year, so farmers may try to do too much of it this year. If so, they will drive prices of feeder lambs too high this fall.

Recent prices of feeder lambs, Good and Choice, ranged from about $12.50 a hundred pounds at Fort Worth to $17.25 at Omaha. Prices at Fort Worth were about $4.00 lower than a year before, and at Omaha $2.00 lower.

(Continued)

At the same time Choice slaughter lambs were $2.00 to $3.00 lower than last year.

The average annual price of lambs changed very little in the past seven years. The high year was 1958, with an average of $22.58 at Chicago; and the low year was 1959, with an average of $20.93.

Prices of slaughter lambs at Chicago averaged $19.50 last winter. The January and February averages were $18.62, and the March figure was $21.25. Prices now seem likely to average about $2.00 lower this coming winter than they did last winter.

This year began with 29,481,000 stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches. That was 4 percent more than a year before and 8 percent more than the "cyclical" low three years before. Numbers apparently are increasing slightly again this year.

The 1960 lamb crop is estimated at 21,584,000 head. This is 2 percent more than last year and 11 percent above the 10-year, 1949-58, average. Most of the increase this year was in Texas and Wyoming.

The 1960 summer drouth was centered in important western sheep areas--western Texas, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada and California. This may stop the buildup of sheep numbers in those states.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

MOST CORN AND BEANS SHOULD ESCAPE FROST DAMAGE

URBANA, ILLINOIS SEPT. 14, 1960

About 96 percent of Illinois corn will "beat the freeze" if the first killing frosts come at the normal dates or later. About 98 percent of the soybeans will mature before the normal dates of killing frosts, according to estimates by the Illinois Cooperative Crop Reporting Service and the Weather Bureau.

The average dates of the first killing frosts range from October 1 in the northwestern corner of the state to October 30 in the extreme southern tip. By killing frost we mean a freeze that will stop the growth of corn and beans over an area as large as a county.

In the northern fourth of Illinois, where planting was delayed most, 89 percent of the corn and beans will be safe from damage if frost comes at the normal time or later. Western Illinois also has much late corn and beans, but this section should have about 10 days more before frost than the northern end of the state.

If killing frosts should come an average of 10 days earlier than usual, about 20 percent of the corn would be injured and 11 percent of the beans would be caught. If the frosts came 20 days early, about 55 percent of the corn and 45 percent of the beans would be nipped.

Killing frosts first invade Illinois from the north, but Lake Michigan holds them back from the counties around Chicago. By October 5 frost has usually covered four or five counties in the northwest corner. The invasion then spreads rapidly, especially down the middle of the state.

By October 10 the frost line has bulged southward to below LaSalle in the center of the state, and by the 15th it has gone below Springfield. At about the same time, freezing temperatures creep over the Illinois state line from central Indiana.

Other areas of mid-Illinois are more frost resistant. Thus frosts may be later at Kankakee and Galesburg than at Springfield, which is 60 miles farther south.

(Continued)

The Champaign-Ford-Douglas-Piatt counties area has been especially frost resistant. The average date of the first killing frost in this area is October 20 to 25, or 10 days later than in the Springfield-Lincoln-Peoria area.

A similar frost-resistant island appears in southeastern Illinois from around Olney south to McLeansboro and Carmi. A long string of frost-resistant counties is also found along the southwestern edge of the state, along the Mississippi river, from around Quincy south to Cairo.

Exclusive of the exceptions noted before, the average date of first killing frosts in east-central and southern Illinois is October 15 to 20. These are the typical dates for killing frosts over a large and irregular-shaped area extending from just west of Chicago and including Kankakee, Decatur, Lawrenceville, Harrisburg, Mt. Vernon, Vandalia, Carlinville, Macomb and Monmouth.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

DAIRY SITUATION IS STABILIZED

Prices Above Support Levels

URBANA, ILLINOIS SEPT. 23, 1960

The dairy situation has been fairly well stabilized for five or six years. No major change is expected in the year ahead.

The President recently signed a bill to raise price supports to 80 percent of parity--from 77 percent. This change will not have much effect on market prices, which were already at or above the 80 percent level. In August, prices received by farmers for butterfat averaged 80 percent of parity, while prices received for milk averaged 85 percent.

Total milk production in the United States has held around 125 billion pounds annually for five years. Total output has been stable because the increase in production per cow has been offset by a decrease in the number of cows.

Cow numbers decreased less this year than in 1959 and 1958. In those years many dairymen shifted to beef cattle. The decline in prices of beef cattle in the past 18 months has tended to slow the switch from dairy to beef. The increase in production per cow has offset the decline in cow numbers and provided an increase of about one percent in milk production compared with a year ago. But this increase is less than the growth in population, which is about 1 2/3 percent a year. If the reduction in cow numbers is halted, increased production per cow would soon produce surplus problems.

The government price-support program for milk and cream is carried out by CCC purchases of cheese, butter and nonfat dry milk.

Sales of cheese to the CCC have decreased to the vanishing point over the past four years. Such sales declined from 241 million pounds in 1957 to 80 million pounds in 1958, to 5 million pounds in 1959 and to less than 1/2 million pounds so far this year.

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Purchases of butter for price support decreased from 359 million pounds in 1953 to 124 million pounds last year. So far this year the CCC has bought about the same amount of butter as in 1959.

Price-support purchases of nonfat dry milk reached an all-time record high of 886 million pounds in 1958 and then declined to 830 million pounds last year. Deliveries to the United States Department of Agriculture have continued at about the same rate so far in 1960.

Average prices received by farmers for milk have been steady to slightly higher since 1954. An exception was 1958, when prices declined a bit. The Illinois farm price for fluid milk markets averaged $3.80 per hundred pounds in August, 20 cents more than a year before.

Cow numbers are decreasing faster in Illinois than in most other states. In the past 10 years Illinois lost 30 percent of its cows, while the whole country lost only 13 percent.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

HOG PRICE PROSPECTS IMPROVE

Prospective Market Supplies Are Moderate

URBANA, ILLINOIS SEPTEMBER 28, 1960

The outlook for hog producers over the next 12 months continues to be favorable. This conclusion is based on a study of the USDA quarterly Pig Crop Report that was released late in September.

There is a good chance, we believe, that prices of hogs will continue at profitable levels in late 1961 and through much of 1962. But this is only an opinion. Let's get back to the figures in the government report. This report covers ten corn-belt states that produce 73 percent of the nation's hogs.

FEWER HOGS ON FARMS. Farmers in these states had 13 percent fewer hogs 3 to 6 months old on hand September 1 than they had a year before. These hogs will make up most of the market supply during October, November and December. Prices in these months this year seem likely to stay well above the $12 to $13 averages of 1959.

Also on September 1 farmers had 7 percent fewer hogs under 3 months old than they had a year before. This points to correspondingly smaller market supplies in January, February and March than we had last winter.

Thus the prospective cut in winter marketings, probably 5 to 10 percent, will give strong support to prices in the first quarter of 1961.

FARROWINGS MAY INCREASE A LITTLE. Farmers reporting to the government indicated that they planned to increase sow farrowings in September, October and November by 3 percent over last fall. The number of pigs saved may increase more than 3 percent, since death losses were unusually large in the corresponding months last year.

(Continued)

From these farrowing forecasts we can speculate that market supplies and prices may be somewhat the same next spring as they were this past spring. Prices of barrows and gilts last April, May and June averaged around $16 a hundred pounds at midwest terminal markets.

Looking further into the future, the farmers said that they expected to increase winter farrowings (December, January and February) by 4 percent over those of 12 months before. Such an increase would still leave winter farrowings at a comparatively low level, because farmers cut farrowings last winter by 19 percent from the previous year.

An increase of only 4 percent would leave the number of winter pigs far below the number produced two years before and marketed in the summer of 1959. As of now, prices next summer seem likely to compare favorably with the $15 average recorded in 1959 or the $17 average of this past summer.

There is as yet no sign that farmers will press hog marketings late in 1961 to the big volume that brought the low prices of last fall.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

INCREASING CATTLE NUMBERS FORETELL PRICE ADJUSTMENT

URBANA, ILLINOIS OCT. 5, 1960

Prices for fat cattle seem likely to average $1.50 to $2.00 a hundred pounds lower in 1961 than in 1960. Here is why:

Farmers and ranchers have been building up their herds for three years. They started three years ago with 93.3 million head. They added 3 million the first year, 5 million the second, and are adding about 3 million again this year.

Slaughter began to increase in November of last year and has since been running about 7 percent higher than a year before.

Largely as a result of this increased slaughter of cattle, prices for choice steers have averaged about $2.00 a hundred pounds lower in 1960 than they did in 1959.

But the slaughter of cattle and calves still has not caught up with production on ranches and farms. We are adding another 3 million head to herds this year. Cattle numbers are catching up with their feed supply. Besides that, the decline in cattle prices makes the business less attractive as a maker of profits. So we look for a smaller increase in cattle numbers next year, and a greater sale of cattle for slaughter.

Commercial slaughter of cattle and calves could increase 10 percent in 1961 and yet not cut cattle numbers. We expect the increase to be less than 10 percent, probably around 5 or 6 percent. That could take $1.50 to $2.00 a hundred pounds off the average price for the year.

Farmers in eight corn-belt states bought 14 percent fewer feeder cattle during the first eight months of this year than they did in 1959. This suggests that market supplies of fed cattle will not be excessive this winter. At the same time, supplies of pork will be skimpy. This could add up to some fairly good prices for fed cattle during the snowy months.

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For many years we could count on better than average prices for fat cattle in the late summer and early fall. Consequently, many farmers adopted cattle-feeding programs that put fat cattle on the market from August through November or December.

This program seems to have been overdone a bit in the past three years. Consequently, prices of fed cattle have been relatively low in the fall--and highest around February and March.

We do not expect the top prices to be made in these months every year. On the other hand, it is difficult to figure how prices could be higher in the last half of 1961 than they will be in the first half of the year.

Farmers who buy their feeder cattle at prices in line with the expected lower prices for fat cattle have a good chance to make a normal profit.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

THE 1960 ILLINOIS CORN CROP MAY BRING $1.00 A BUSHEL

URBANA, ILLINOIS OCT. 12, 1960

The 1960 Illinois corn crop may sell for about $1.00 a bushel. This price would be about 4 cents less than the average received for the 1959 crop.

The direct cause of the lower average will be the reduction in the price-support level to $1.06 a bushel from $1.12 for the 1959 crop.

The 1960 corn crop will be around $4.20 billion bushels, down from 4.36 billion last year. This amount might not greatly exceed the total needed for domestic consumption and export in this marketing year, which began October 1.

But the carry-over of old corn is at a new record high, and it is of such age and condition that substantial sales must be made to prevent serious spoilage.

We expect to see substantial sales of CCC corn after the pressure of harvest-time sales by farmers is past.

In market situations like the present one for corn, prices usually decline at harvest far enough below the support level to cause a substantial number of farmers to put their crops under the price-support loan. The price difference needed to cause this action is usually 10 to 15 cents a bushel.

The average Illinois farm price for the 1959 crop rose from 96 cents a bushel in October to $1.11 in May. (These prices are not adjusted for changes in grade.)

One fact that tended to limit the seasonal price increase for the 1969 crop was the prospect that the support level would be 6 cents lower for the 1960 crop. It now appears that the price-support level for the 1961 crop will not be lower, but probably higher, than for the 1960 crop.

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Another factor depressing the price of the 1959 corn crop was declining prices for cattle and hogs. Although cattle prices may decline further in 1961, prices for hogs have recovered substantially from their lows, and they will be well above year-before levels during most, if not all, of the 12 months in which the 1960 corn crop will be marketed.

The very favorable hog-corn price ratio will promote rapid use of corn in spite of the reduction in hog numbers. But beef-cattle numbers are at a record high, and feeding will probably reach new records this winter. Laying flocks have been reduced slightly from last year, but broiler production seems likely to continue to increase. All of these factors point to a heavy disappearance of corn in the coming months.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

IS THE PRICE OF FARMLAND TOO HIGH?

URBANA, ILLINOIS OCT. 19, 1960

Prices of farmland in Illinois have been going in both directions--up and down. But the downs have slightly outweighed the ups in the past year or so. According to a recent report by the USDA, average prices declined 2 percent in the year ended last July.

This figure may hide more than it reveals. Brokers say that some recent sales were made at $100 to $200 an acre less than the lands might have brought a year or two ago. At the same time, other sales show prices still going up. These diverse trends often occur in the same county.

In general, central Illinois seems to show the greatest price weakness. The drouth in this area in 1959 was a price-depressing factor. Prices in northern and southern Illinois show less evidence of weakness. Northern Illinois had a bumper corn crop in 1959. The effects of nonfarm influences are also strong in the northern part of the state. New technology has greatly increased the productivity of farmland in the southern third of the state.

Many people have asked, "Is the price of farmland too high?" A counter question would be, "Is farmland too high for what?"

People buy farmland for many different purposes. Buying a farm is for some farmers essentially a way of buying a job. This is especially true in areas where land values are relatively low. They may be willing to accept a low rate of return on their investment in order to be assured of having jobs that they like.

Some people buy farmland as an investment. They balance the return from their farms against returns from other investments, such as corporation stocks, bonds and nonfarm real estate.

Some people buy land as a speculation, or as a hedge against inflation. This has paid off very well over the past 25 years. The few who bought substantial amounts of land "on a shoestring" 10 to 20 years ago have become well to do. By contrast, those who put their savings into bonds and similar securities have little to show for their thrift.

Many farmers buy land to build up the size of their operations to more profitable levels. In 1959, 45 percent of all farmland purchases were for this purpose. The income-producing ability of land is usually much greater when it is used for farm enlargement than when it is used in an independent operation.

Considering the various reasons that people have for buying land, a price may be too high for one person and a bargain for another.

Farmland values in Illinois will likely move in the same direction and about as fast as values in other states.

For the nation as a whole, current prices for farmland are unusually high in relation to farm income. The value of farmland per acre is about 11 times the annual farm income per acre. Land was similarly high three times in the past 50 years--in 1911, 1921-22 and 1931-33. The first of these years, 1911, was in the farm prosperity period of 1910-14 that has since become the parity standard. The other two periods, by contrast, were years when farm prices and income were at extreme low points.

Another comparative figure is called the "farm capital turnover." This is a ratio of land value to annual net farm income. This ratio has averaged over 8 to 1 in the past three years, or about the same as in 1910-14. In the 1920s it tended to stabilize at around 7 to 1, and in the 1930s at 6 1/2 to 1.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

GOOD NEWS FOR CATTLE FEEDERS

URBANA, ILLINOIS OCT. 26, 1960

For cattle feeders, about the biggest news of the fall season is the report of cattle on feed October 1. It's good news this year.

Farmers in 26 major feeding states were feeding 5,075,000 head of cattle (including calves) on October 1. That was just 1 percent more than they had in their feed lots a year before. The increase is less than the increase in population.

Farmers in the 12 north-central (corn-belt) states were feeding only 3,069,000 head, 5 percent less than a year before.

The 11 western states reported 1,703,000 head, 13 percent more than in 1959.

Most of the cutback in cattle feeding in the north-central states was in Illinois and Nebraska. Illinois farmers cut back 12 percent, and Nebraska farmers 10 percent. Iowa feeders were holding steady, feeding the same number this year as in 1959.

Numbers of cattle on feed in the leading states were as follows: Iowa, 1,029,000; California, 761,000; Nebraska, 487,000; Illinois, 360,000; Colorado, 359,000; Minnesota, 252,000; Kansas, 247,000; Arizona, 202,000; Missouri, 170,000; South Dakota, 135,000; and Indiana, 110,000.

KINDS AND WEIGHTS. The report shows that the proportions of steers and heifers on feed were the same this fall as they were a year ago. About 70 percent were steers and steer calves, 29 percent heifers and heifer calves and 1 percent cows.

The small increase in numbers of steers on feed was in the weight range of 500 to 900 pounds. Compared with the figures for last fall, the proportion weighing under 500 pounds decreased from 6 percent ro 5; the 500- to 700-pound group increased from 13 percent to 15; and the 700- to 900-pound group, from 29 to 31 percent. The proportion weighing 900 to 1,100 pounds decreased from 41 percent to 39, and the share over 1,100 pounds dropped from 11 percent to 10.

Practically all of the increcse in heifers on feed was in the 500- to 700-pound weight range. The proportion weighing under 500 pounds was 9 percent in both years. The share in the 500- to

700-pound bracket went up from 28 percent to 31, while the 700- to 900-pound heifers decreased from 45 percent to 43, and those over 900 pounds went down from 18 percent to 17.

MARKETING PLANS. Reports from cattle feeders indicated that they would sell about 2,894,000 head of these cattle before the end of the year. This number would be 3 percent more than they sold in the same quarter a year ago.

Of the cattle expected to be marketed in this present quarter, 35 percent were scheduled to go in October, 30 percent in November and 35 percent in December.

PRICE FACTORS. The small increases in numbers of cattle on feed and in expected marketings may be offset by reductions in average weights. A shortage of pork will continue to divert more of the consumer demand for meat to beef. But the restaurant trade is poor, dulling the demand for top cattle.

Business may improve a little after election day. Prices for fed cattle seem to have passed their low for this season and may work slowly upward during the next few months.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

USE OF CORN UP ONE-THIRD IN THREE YEARS

URBANA, ILLINOIS NOV. 2, 1960

The big election campaign headlines have obscured some important farm news items. One of these is that the disappearance of corn in each of the past three years far exceeded all previous records.

Disappearance of corn in the year ending with September totaled 4.1 billion bushels. This total represents an increase of 10 percent over the year before, 21 percent over two years earlier, and 33 percent over the five-year average ending in 1957.

Total use, or disappearance, of corn first topped 3.0 billion bushels in the year beginning October 1942. In that year disappearance totaled 3.2 billion bushels as farmers fed up surplus stocks that had accumulated just before World War II. Then for 15 years the amount used stayed in the 3.0 billion- to 3.2 billion-bushel range.

(The year 1947-48 was an exception. The corn crop was short in 1947, and only 2.5 billion bushels of corn were used.)

The big jump in corn use in the past three years provides some important questions for consideration by farmers and Congress. One is: "What caused the big increase in the disappearance of corn?" Another: "What is the relation of price supports and price levels to the rate of use of corn?"

You may recall that a principal argument for reducing the price-support level for corn was that it would promote increased consumption. The national average support level was around $1.60 a bushel from 1952 through 1956. Then it was gradually reduced until it was $1.12 this past year.

Prices received by farmers for corn sold at local markets averaged around $1.47 a bushel during the first seven years of the 1950s. The last three corn crops brought $1.12, $1.03 and about $1.00 a bushel, respectively.

The huge disappearance of corn in the past three years, 1957-1959, occurred in spite of an unprecedented increase in the production of other feed grains. Until three years ago, the production

(Continued)

of sorghum grain never exceeded 250 million bushels. In the past three years the output of sorghum grain ranged from 564 million to 610 million bushels, or more than double the biggest previous crops.

The production of barley was far greater in the past three years than in any previous three-year period. The oat crop was small in 1959, but the average for the three years was about normal.

Exports of corn about doubled in the past three years, increasing from less than 100 million bushels a year to over 200 million bushels. There has been little change in the use of corn for food and industrial uses, which take around 265 million bushels annually. Thus the big increase in the use of corn is on farms, as feed for livestock and poultry.

This evidence seems to support the belief that reducing the price of corn has brought about a substantial increase in the use of this grain.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS NOV. 9, 1960

WILL THE NEW ADMINISTRATION DEVALUE THE DOLLAR?

Some farmers have asked us for information about the recent run-up in the price of gold and the prospects of a devaluation of the U. S. dollar. This is a big order for delivery in three minutes, but we can list a few basic facts.

Gold is used as backing for our paper currency and bank deposits. Banks in other countries can send dollars to the United States Treasury and receive gold in exchange. The exchange rate, or the price of gold, is $35 an ounce.

Foreign nations can claim our gold only by offering dollars for it. They get dollars in several ways: They get dollars when our citizens pay for imports, travel in foreign countries and invest in foreign businesses. Foreign nations also get dollars when our government spends to maintain military forces outside the United States and when we provide foreign aid to newly developing countries.

So long as the products of our farms and factories are "good buys," foreigners will take them in preference to gold. But when our products become overpriced in relation to prices in other countries, they will take our gold and buy their supplies elsewhere.

Foreign banks have taken four billion dollars' worth of our gold in the past four years. Our stock of gold has been reduced from 23 billion dollars in 1956 to 19 billion dollars recently.

Many products of our industries are overpriced in present world markets. The reason is excessive increases in labor costs in our industries.

The normal consequence of excessive wage increases is excessive unemployment. But our national policy is to prevent such unemployment by increasing government spending. In order to spend more, the government borrows from banks. Such borrowing has the effect of creating more dollars. For example, in the recession of 1957-58, our government borrowed 10 billion dollars from banks.

(Continued)

There are three possible ways to check the run on U. S. gold stocks:

1. We can check federal spending and deficit financing.

2. We can bring our costs under control so that our manufactured products will be priced more competitively with products of other nations.

3. We can raise the price of gold, that is, devalue the dollar, so that foreign owners of dollars would rather take our goods than our gold. But the trouble with this last alternative is that other countries could, and likely would, devalue their currency at the same time that the United States devalued the dollar. This action would tend to promote world-wide inflation.

What we need to recognize is that governments do not voluntarily devalue their currency. Rather, they are forced to do so by nearly irresistible economic forces. These economic forces, however, are often the result of excessive spending by the government itself, or of other unsound economic policies.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

HOG PRODUCTION AND PRICE PROSPECTS

URBANA, ILLINOIS
NOV. 16, 1960

It is easy to become too pessimistic about this business of farming. Take hogs, for example. A year ago many of us were expecting prices to be lower this fall than in 1959. But actually they have been one-fourth to one-third higher.

The big problem now is that prices may be too high. We all know that unusually good prices can bring too much production a year or so later.

Market supplies promise to be smaller during the next four months than they were last winter. This conclusion is based largely on a study of the latest quarterly pig crop report. This report, which covered 10 corn-belt states, showed that on September 1 farmers had 7 percent fewer pigs under three months old than they had last year. These pigs will make up most of the market receipts from December through March.

If marketings turn out to be about as the report indicated, hog prices would be expected to range from $17 to $19 during the next four months. During this period the price of corn seems likely to be under $1.00 a bushel. Thus the prospect is for a very favorable hog-corn price ratio.

Price differentials between 200-220 pounds and 220-240 pounds have been 20 to 40 cents a hundred pounds in recent winters. The differentials could be a little larger this winter. But seasonal price improvement may offset discounts for weight. In market situations of this kind, sales at 220 to 240 pounds should be considered.

The favorable prices of recent weeks will surely bring a substantial increase in the 1961 spring pig crop. In fact, the September report indicated that farrowings in this September-November quarter would be up 3 percent from last fall.

The increase in hog production in 1961 may not be excessive. Production was cut too much last spring, so some increase is desirable. A 1961 spring pig crop of around 56 million head might be sold at profitable prices. This would be 14 percent more than was saved last spring, but 4 percent less than was produced in 1959.

At first thought, production within 4 percent of the 1959 level may seem to be too much. However, population increases nearly 4 percent in two years. So the supply of pork per person might be 7 or 8 percent less than when prices were depressed a year ago.

The actual increase in the 1961 spring pig crop may well be less than the 14 percent figure mentioned above.

Professor W. P. Garrigus, head of the Animal Science Department of the University of Kentucky, recently made a number of forecasts about the swine industry. One was that the per capita consumption of pork would increase 20 percent in the next 10 years. To provide pork for this increase, plus pork for our growing population, farmers would have to produce about 40 percent more than they are producing in 1960.

Dr. Garrigus may be over-optimistic, but his statement does point up the fact that there are opportunities in the hog business.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS NOV. 23, 1960

HISTORY, RUSSIA AND THE U. S. DOLLAR

Monetary devaluation is a practice that is about as old as recorded history. It became much more important when nations shifted from silver and gold coins to paper currency and bank deposits. Silver and gold were precious metals. Their value, like that of wheat and cattle, was inherent in the products themselves, not dependent upon a king's promise to pay. No king or other government could create silver and gold.

Paper money and bank deposits can be created in unlimited amounts. Restrictions are, of course, provided by laws, but the laws can always be changed, or ignored in some cases.

Governments are often forced to create excessive amounts of paper currency and bank deposits by wartime needs or excessive demands from the public.

Notable excesses in American history include the issuance of "continentals" during the Revolutionary War and the Confederate currency and "greenbacks" during the Civil War.

The continentals were finally redeemed at one cent on the dollar. For a time they were worth even less. This experience gave us our expression, "not worth a continental!"

The Confederate currency became valuable only as collectors' items, while the greenbacks were eventually restored to face value.

During and after World War II, an epidemic of inflation and devaluation swept through Europe and other countries. The United States resisted devaluation longer than most other countries, but succumbed in 1933. At that time the U. S. dollar was devalued to 59 percent of its former gold content. This is the basis for the expression, the "59-cent dollar."

Since then inflation and devaluation have occurred in many countries.

Russia recently announced plans to devalue the ruble, but tried to make it appear as a devaluation of the U. S. dollar. This was accomplished by two orders. The first will change the official exchange rate from 25 cents per ruble to $1.11 per ruble. This appears to cut the value

of the dollar to 22 1/2 percent of its former value. It raises the nominal gold equivalent of the ruble to nearly 4 1/2 times its former level--but Russia does not exchange gold for rubles.

But here is the gimmick: A second order will cause all money, wages, prices, savings, debts and accounts in Russia to be divided by 10! This will make the ruble worth 10 times as much as it is now for trade within Russia. But the gold value will be increased only 4 1/2 times. The net result appears to be a devaluation of Russian currency by more than 50 percent in comparison with the U. S. dollar, the English pound, the German mark and all other currencies based on gold.

It is difficult to forecast the effects of these new Russian moves. One thing can be sure: they are not intended to aid the United States.

Taken at face value, the moves would cut the prices of Russian wheat, lumber and other products offered for export to other countries. This would put more pressure on the U. S. dollar and on our gold reserves.

But all Russian exports are made by the government, at prices fixed by the government. In many cases exports are part of barter deals, with no money changing hands. Thus we will have to wait and see what happens. The moves may be planned as battles in Russia's economic war against the United States and the West.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS NOV. 30, 1960

BIG YIELDS, WET CORN DEPRESS CURRENT MARKETS

The corn price outlook deteriorated as the harvest season progressed. Yields were larger than was expected. In many areas the moisture content of the corn remained extremely high.

The November official estimate of the 1960 corn crop was 4,379 million bushels. This was nearly 200 million more than was forecast in September and practically the same as the previous record crop produced last year.

The corn was not "soft." Late fields of corn in central and northern Illinois just did not dry properly. There were few good drying days in September and October. In some areas there were excessive rains.

Moisture contents ranging from 14 1/2 percent to over 32 percent were reported. In some extreme cases corn that was sold brought less than 40 cents a bushel after discounts for moisture. Some buyers stopped taking corn for a time.

A few farmers were disappointed with their yields. But most of them were well pleased--surprised by the high outturns.

The November estimate put the Illinois crop at 694 million bushels, 21 million more than last year. The average yield was listed at 67 bushels an acre, the same as in 1959.

Iowa did not fare so well as Illinois. Production of corn in 1960 is estimated at 775 million bushels, down 55 million from 1959. The average yield is estimated at 61 bushels an acre, down from 66 bushels last year. The Iowa crop was late and the harvest slow. Only 55 percent was reported picked by November 13.

Indiana and Ohio had good crops, bigger than last year. So did the northern plains states--Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas. The Nebraska crop was outstanding, with 369 million bushels against a 10-year average of only 209 million.

(Continued)

Much of the 1960 crop is too wet to qualify for price support loans. And CCC has a record supply of corn, some of which is not of good keeping quality. This suggests that CCC may have to sell substantial amounts of corn in the next several months.

The 1960 crop may be used up rapidly. Poor-quality, high-moisture corn is cheap. It is fed freely and used more carelessly than higher priced, drier corn.

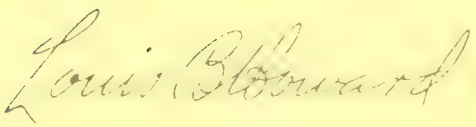
Total disappearance of corn in this marketing year (October through September) may equal or exceed the 4.1 billion bushels used and exported last year. If so, the net addition to the carry-over would be no more than 300 million bushels. It could be considerably less.

Recent prices for cash corn (No. 2 yellow) at Chicago were 6 cents below the December future and 18 cents less than the July future. These large differences reflected trade expectations that prices would rise more than usual during the winter and spring months.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

U. S. FARM PRICES FOLLOW WORLD TREND

URBANA, ILLINOIS DEC. 7, 1960

We have long been impressed by the apparent influence of international economic conditions on prices of U. S. farm products. A new example of this relationship recently came to our attention.

The Foreign Agricultural Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture published a chart showing world agricultural prices from 1952 through 1959. This chart showed that the world prices had declined 17 percent during this period.

Then we got to wondering about the decline in U. S. farm prices over the same time. When the figures were checked, they showed that prices received by U. S. farmers had declined the same amount, 17 percent, from 1952 to 1959!

To be sure, prices in the United States and elsewhere do not always move precisely together. For example, there was a temporary recovery of world prices in 1954, while prices in the United States declined. Changes in price-support operations and government programs make for divergent price movements.

But there are many reasons for expecting U. S. farm prices to be strongly influenced by world markets. One of these is that large proportions of many U. S. farm products are sold in other countries.

In the fiscal year ended last June 30, U. S. farm products valued at $4.5 billion were exported. These exports represented the produce of one acre of every six harvested. Our exports are running even greater this year.

Some of our agricultural exports are for foreign aid and gifts, but most of them are sold for good old U. S. dollars. Of the total farm exports in the year ended June 30, 1960, less than 4 percent was grants and donations, 3 percent was traded directly for other commodities, and 22 percent was sold for foreign currency (to be spent in the foreign country or invested there). Foreign buyers bought 29 percent with dollars in special export contracts where our government gave some assistance,

usually in the form of moderate price discounts. But foreign buyers took 42 percent by simply offering more dollars for them than our own buyers were willing to pay.

In the past year exports provided outlets for 56 percent of our rice, 48 percent of our wheat, 44 percent of our tallow, 44 percent of our cotton, 41 percent of our barley, 29 percent of our tobacco, 26 percent of our soybeans, 24 percent of our lard, 23 percent of our sorghum grain and 15 percent of our corn.

But the United States does not have a monopoly on world export markets. We provide only about 17 percent of the farm products that move into international trade.

The leading foreign buyers of our farm products are the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands and West Germany. All of these countries are good cash customers, and they can buy wherever they get the best prices. This is what keeps the pressure on us to keep our prices in line with world markets.

We should add that the over-all index of U. S. farm prices has been relatively steady in recent years. The lowest level since World War II was reached five years ago, in December 1955. Prices recently were about 10 percent above the 1955 low.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

THE SOYBEAN SITUATION

URBANA, ILLINOIS DEC. 14, 1960

The price of soybeans has climbed about 10 cents a bushel from the harvest-time low. Some farmers who have held their beans are asking for information that might help them decide whether to hold for further price rise.

Until about five years ago the price of soybeans typically went up 20 to 25 percent from harvest time to the following May. In more recent years the seasonal price rise has averaged less than 10 percent. In the earlier years most of the price advance came during the winter and early spring. In the more recent period about half of the rise has come from October to November and the remainder has been spread over the next five months.

The big price increases of the earlier years were largely the results of conditions that no longer exist. Soybean production was increasing very rapidly. Almost each year it appeared that there would be a big surplus left at the end of the season. But processors increased their crushing capacity and found markets for the soybean oil and meal. The resulting rapid use of beans brought on rising prices, especially during the spring months.

Soybean production has taken only one big jump in the past five years, and that was in 1958. The last two crops have been smaller than the 1958 crop. This is the first time since 1937 that soybean producers have gone two years without setting a new record.

The USDA recently listed three reasons for the leveling-out of the seasonal pattern of soybean prices.

1. The government acquired a substantial amount of the 1958 beans through price-support and has since put some of these back on the market.
2. Storage capacity has been greatly increased, and marketings delayed.
3. The volume of futures trading in soybeans has increased.

The supply of beans this marketing year is estimated at 583 million bushels, or about 1 percent less than last year. Of this amount the government holds less than 2 percent. Domestic use and exports are expected to take most of the present supply before the next crop is available.

Exporters are expected to buy around 140 million bushels for cash, so international market conditions will have considerable influence on prices.

The recent price of soybean oil was 10 cents a pound, up from 7 3/4 cents a year before. A yield of 11 pounds of oil per bushel of beans would give an oil value of $1.10 a bushel compared with 85 cents a year before. Oil prices now are believed to be supported by substantial buying for export under government foreign aid programs.

Soybean meal prices sagged in November, but recently recovered $4 a ton to $47.50, bulk Decatur, for 44 percent solvent meal. At this level prices were $11 below a year before. A yield of 46 1/2 pounds of meal per bushel of beans would give a meal value of $1.10 per bushel of beans compared with $1.36 last year.

The combined value of oil and meal recently was equal to $2.20 per bushel of beans, 1 cent less than 12 months before. At the same time the price of soybeans at Chicago was $2.21, or 5 cents higher than the year before. Prices for the 1959 crop of beans did not rise materially after November. Oil prices did improve, but the rise was offset by a decline in the price of soybean meal. This year price improvement for meal could be offset by a decline in oil prices.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

PRODUCTION OF MOST CROPS WAS BELOW RECORD LEVELS IN 1960

URBANA, ILLINOIS DEC. 21, 1960

In December of each year the United States Department of Agriculture publishes a summary of crop production for the year, together with comparable figures for earlier years. This report contains more than 100 pages of description and statistics. We have studied the report for 1960 and will pass on to you a few of the most important facts.

This report is the source of the much-repeated statement that crop production reached a new record high in 1960, at 122 percent of the 1947-49 average. The old record was 118, set two years ago.

Looking back, the record shows that crop production does not increase steadily, but by spurts. There was a great spurt 20 years ago as the drouth and acreage allotments of the 1930s were replaced with favorable weather and incentive price supports to produce for wartime needs. Crop production took another jump in 1958, eased off a shade in 1959 and then made the new record in 1960.

The record total production in 1960 was the result of uniformly good yields of most crops. A few major crops established new records, but most did not.

CORN was one of the record-breakers. A national average yield of 53 bushels an acre topped the old record of 51.8 bushels set in 1958. Production of corn is estimated at 4,353 million bushels, up 2 percent from last year.

SORGHUM GRAIN was another record-breaker. Yield was 41.3 bushels an acre compared with the 37.6-bushel record set last year. Total production of sorghum grain was 638 million bushels, or 4 percent more than in 1958.

SOYBEAN yields in 1960 averaged 23.8 bushels an acre, 1/2 bushel less than the record set in 1958. Total production of beans is figured at 559 million bushels, 4 percent short of the 1958 record.

WHEAT yield is listed at 25.9 bushels an acre, 1 1/2 bushels less than in 1958. Production of wheat totaled 1,363 million bushels, 6 percent short of the 1958 record.

BARLEY yielded an average of 30.3 bushels an acre in 1960, 1 1/2 bushels less than in 1958. Production totaled 423 million bushels, 12 percent off the 1958 high.

OAT yields averaged 42.9 bushels an acre this past year, 2 1/2 bushels less than in 1958. The total production of oats is estimated at 1,162 million bushels. This is 17 percent less than in 1958 and 24 percent less than the all-time record set back in 1945.

COTTON made 448 pounds an acre, 18 pounds less than in 1958. Total production was 14.3 million bales, 2 percent less than the good crop of 1959 and 32 percent less than the record set back in 1937.

TOBACCO yielded 1,713 pounds an acre, a new record of about 100 pounds over 1958. Tobacco production totaled 1,960 million pounds. This was the biggest crop in four years, but it was 16 percent short of the record set in 1951.

In general, 1960 was a wet year, especially in the Corn Belt and Great Plains. And wet years are almost always good crop years. We may not have such favorable weather in the nation's heartland in 1961.

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FARM FILLERS

Amino triazole, the chemical of recent cranberry fame, will be a featured topic at the Illinois Custom Spray Operators' Training School in Urbana January 27-29. C. Boyd Shaffer of the American Cyanamid Company will discuss the effects of this chemical on warm-blooded animals.

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Minimum-tillage reports from 11 Illinois counties show that farmers cut down on tillage this past season. In 17 other counties, 2 to 6 percent of the farmers used some form of minimum tillage in 1959.

****

University of Illinois tests show that lambs can make satisfactory gains with only one to one and a half linear inches of feeder space per head. Previous recommendations called for three to four inches.

****

Research shows that overfat brood sows farrow and raise smaller litters than sows that are not so fat. Hand-feeding sows will cut feed costs and also let the producer know when his sows are getting too fat.

****

During the past five years, each person in the United States has had 60 to 70 percent more beef than was available per person 30 years ago.

****

U. S. farmers receive more money from the sale of cattle and calves than from any other farm product.

****

Dramatic advances in livestock housing will become common within the next ten years. The trend will be toward confining livestock from birth until market.

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From Extension Editorial Office
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Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

University of Illinois dairy research indicates that it is possible to shorten the gestation period in dairy cows by using selective breeding. Scientists point out that length of gestation is hereditary. With proper selection the period could possibly be cut by more than three days in one generation.

****

Latest results of crop improvement research will be reported on January 26 at the 1960 Illinois Crop Performance Day at the University of Illinois. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. in Room 112 Gregory Hall.

****

A new insecticide called Sevin looks promising for controlling earworms in sweet corn. Both sprays and dusts of Sevin were as good as or superior to DDT or DDT and oil sprays in University of Illinois tests.

****

Illinois is a leading poultry state. In 1958 it ranked fifth in number of eggs produced and number of chickens raised.

****

Three pounds of silage will replace one pound of hay in the dairy ration.

****

When you weld, cut, solder or use any type of flame or heat, make sure there are no combustibles in the area. Sparks from cutting equipment can travel 30 feet or more.

****

Swine are especially susceptible to vibrionic dysentery, commonly called black scours, during cold, rainy weather. Poor sanitation and crowding add to the problem.

-30-

HDN:mfb
1/13/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Cyril Northcote Parkinson, internationally known historian, political scientist and business philosopher, will address the University of Illinois Agricultural Industries Forum on Tuesday evening, February 2. Parkinson is probably best known in the United States as the author of "Parkinson's Law and Other Essays."

****

The 1960 census is expected to show that the Illinois farm population has declined about 10 percent since 1955. Even though farm population has declined, the state's total population should reach about 10,350,000 by April 1--a gain of about 1.6 million since 1950.

****

A completely automatic feeding system for dairy cattle is the goal of new dairy research now under way at the University of Illinois. Researchers are mechanically feeding a mixed alfalfa hay and grain ration to two separate lots of dairy heifers. When tests with heifers are completed, researchers will expand the operation to automatically feed different rations to four groups of milking cows.

****

Illinois consumers prefer white-shelled eggs. Most markets will pay a premium for them, so most Illinois farmers should choose a white-egg layer. Leghorn-type hybrids and Leghorn-strain crosses generally have been most suitable for Illinois.

****

The 1959 red clover crop is estimated at 80 million pounds, 12 percent more than last year but 10 percent less than average.

-30-

HDN:mfb
1/20/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Recent University of Illinois tests show that sorghum silage makes a satisfactory substitute for corn silage in rations for wintering bred ewes. Ewes fed sorghum silage performed just as well as ewes receiving corn silage.

****

A mastitis infection can cause an animal's milk production to drop 20 percent or more.

****

There is no surplus of soybeans. The carryover last October 1 was only 62 million bushels, or 11 percent of the previous crop. The prospective carryover next October will be smaller, probably about half as much as last fall.

****

Dairymen may earn more money with fewer cows if they use a production record system to cull cows that aren't making a profit. One of every three cows in Illinois does not produce enough to return a profit on the feed and labor she requires.

****

In spite of the 1959 drouth in Europe, the value of the oil and meal in a bushel of beans is considerably less than it was a year ago.

****

With today's competitive market, poultrymen must raise chicks for either eggs or meat. An "in-between" bird does not return as large a profit, according to a University of Illinois poultry specialist.

-30-

HDN:mfb
1/27/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Illinois 4-H and FFA members in the market for top-quality calves for dairy projects can buy them at the 12th annual 4-H and FFA Club Sale in Urbana February 27. The sale starts at 11 a.m. in the University of Illinois stock pavilion. About 85 calves will be sold.

****

Weeds left growing in corn and soybean rows can rob a farmer of one-fourth of his entire crop. In three years of research at the University of Illinois, giant foxtail left undisturbed in corn rows cut yields by almost 23 bushels an acre.

****

Buy sexed pullets in order to use labor and rearing facilities most effectively. Only rarely can farmers profit from raising egg-type cockerels. Competition from commercial broilers is too great.

****

For each gallon of fuel you burn in your car, truck or tractor, one gallon of water is formed. To prevent this water from condensing in the crankcase, avoid low-temperature operation. If necessary, use radiator shutters to keep the engine temperature up.

****

Batteries will discharge even if they are not in use. Since a discharged battery will freeze at 19° F., recharge batteries on idle combines and tractors now.

****

Minimum tillage saves gas, time and machinery costs. But, perhaps more important, it means less soil and water losses. Last year wheel-track planting saved three to four inches of rainfall and reduced soil losses by several thousand pounds per acre, according to researchers at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station in southern Illinois.

-30-

HDN:mfb
2/3/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Corn disappeared at a record rate during the October-December quarter. Total disappearance during the quarter is estimated at 1,067 million bushels. This was 8 percent more than a year ago and 24 percent more than the five-year 1953-58 average.

****

Recent consumer surveys show that homemakers do all of their shopping at stores where they can get quality meat.

****

Farmers who use less than 75 tons of feed a year will probably find it less expensive to use custom-mixing services than to mix their rations on the farm. But when feed use rises above 100 tons a year, an automatic electric mixer and grinder on the farm will often cut costs below those of custom mixing, according to a University of Illinois agricultural economist.

****

Even though farmers used record amounts of corn from October through December, stocks on farms and in elevators on January 1 totaled 526 million bushels above a year earlier.

****

Change crankcase oil more often in winter than in summer. Odd jobs around the farmstead do not get the tractor warmed up, and the oil becomes contaminated with unburned fuel, water and acid.

****

Livestock gain best during the winter when they have plenty of clean, warm water and dry, draft-free and dust-free housing.

-30-

HDN:mfb
2/10/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Work is proceeding rapidly on the 1960 University of Illinois Farm and Home Festival March 31 and April 1-2. Ten major exhibit stories will dramatically show an important part of college work that contributes to the festival theme, "Progress for Better Living."

****

Early consignments and intense interest shown by breeders indicate that the 12th annual 4-H and FFA Dairy Calf Sale will be one of the best of the series. About 85 top-quality calves will be sold at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, February 27, at the College of Agriculture's stock pavilion in Urbana.

****

A well-balanced diet is probably the most sensible prescription for people who worry about heart disease, according to a University of Illinois food technology chemist.

****

Numerous tests with the feed additive ethanol (ethyl alcohol) indicate that it won't help dairy heifers make faster gains, according to a University of Illinois dairy specialist.

****

Several veterinarians will discuss widespread turkey diseases at the Illinois State Turkey Growers' Association annual meeting in Urbana March 3.

****

To help get top prices for eggs, producers should market 95 percent or more Grade A or AA eggs, according to a University of Illinois egg marketing specialist.

****

One of the major exhibits at the 1960 University of Illinois Farm and Home Festival March 31 and April 1-2 will feature "Chemistry in Agriculture." It will show the important contribution chemicals make in modern-day farming.

-30-

HDN:mfb
2/17/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Seeding legumes without a nurse crop is a possibility for the future. Letting chemicals instead of oats play nurse to legumes offers an appealing prospect for at least a two-ton forage yield the first year and superior stands the second. But the new practice does have some limitations. Agronomists believe a "wait-and-see" attitude is best for farmers at this stage.

****

Two wool pools in May will offer Illinois farmers a chance to get above-average prices for their wool. The pools will be held in Peoria May 16-19 and at the U. of I. Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs May 9-11.

****

Since the International Farm Youth Exchange program began in 1948, more than 1,000 U. S. IFYE delegates have visited 50 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Pacific area and the Middle East.

****

Ten exciting exhibit stories, presenting opportunities for better farming and better living, will be featured at the 1960 University of Illinois Farm and Home Festival March 31 to April 2.

****

The nation's cattle herd increased 9 percent in the past two years. The USDA estimated numbers of cattle and calves on farms and ranches January 1, 1960, at 101,520,000 head. That's 5 percent above one year earlier. It's also 5 percent above the previous record high set four years ago.

****

Research reports at the University of Illinois Swine Day March 3 include (1) methods of preventing anemia in baby pigs, (2) bulky versus high-energy rations for sows at farrowing time, (3) feeder space requirements, (4) feeding scabby oats, (5) feeding high-moisture corn and (6) the Illinois plan for feeding hogs.

-30-

HDN:mfb
2/24/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

One of the major exhibits at the 1960 University of Illinois Farm and Home Festival March 31 to April 2 will feature "Chemistry in Agriculture." This exhibit will show the important contributions chemicals make in modern-day farming.

****

The 1960 University of Illinois Farm and Home Festival March 31 to April 2 features 10 exhibit stories showing opportunities for better farming and better living. A speaking program on timely topics, the Town and Country Art Show and other special features are other Festival highlights.

****

The farmer who wants to have $5,000 in net earnings for family living must now plan on a gross income of around $12,500, according to a University of Illinois farm management specialist.

****

University of Illinois agricultural economists estimate that 70 cents of every farm income dollar will be needed to cover production costs in 1960.

****

In Illinois the main things to consider in choosing alfalfa varieties are yield and winter hardiness. Wilt resistance is also important for alfalfa that will be maintained more than two years.

****

Illinois farmland was worth about five times as much in 1959 as 26 years before, in 1933.

****

Research indicates that dairy calves will develop normally when fed silage as their only source of roughage. The trick is to make sure they receive enough grain to provide the energy needed for growth.

-30-

HDN:mfb
3/2/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Some Illinois farmers experienced more than a 50 percent drop in earnings in 1959 compared with 1958. A sample of 50 central Illinois cash-grain farms showed a decline in capital and management earnings from $9,223 to $4,236. The tenant's share of labor and management earnings on these same farms dropped from $4,276 to $1,644.

****

High feeder cattle prices cut 1959 feeding returns sharply below those of 1958 for Illinois farmers. Returns above feed costs on long-fed steer calves dropped from $52 to $17 a head. Long-fed yearling steer returns dropped from $43 to $22. Short-fed steers returned $26 a head above feed costs compared with about $50 the year before.

****

The University of Illinois Farm and Home Festival will focus its spotlight Friday, April 1, on one of the most publicized topics in recent months, "Chemicals in Agriculture." Four top speakers will examine (1) Justification of Chemicals in Food Production, (2) The Safety of Chemicals in Food Production, (3) Legal Control of Chemicals and (4) Effect of Chemicals on the Consumer's Health.

****

Grain sorghum hybrids are getting better all the time. Yields soared to 115 bushels an acre last season in University of Illinois trials. And the hybrids outyielded common sorghum varieties by 44 percent.

****

A simple and inexpensive method of destroying tree stumps with chemicals will be featured in the "Chemicals in Agriculture" section of the 1960 University of Illinois Farm and Home Festival March 31 and April 1-2. In recent U. of I. tests, "Stumpfyre" completely destroyed 80 percent of all stumps tested.

-30-

HDN:mfb
3/9/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Homemakers may find peaches scarce and expensive next summer. Frigid March temperatures have destroyed an estimated 50 to 100 percent of all southern Illinois peach buds. Eighty to 100 percent of the peach buds in central and northern Illinois are lost.

****

Scientists must process pancreas glands from 7,500 pigs or 1,500 cattle to make a single ounce of insulin.

****

Illinois has 126 soil testing laboratories. This includes 80 county and 46 commercial laboratories.

****

Never use an old gasoline storage tank for storing diesel fuel. The tank may look clean, but it often contains fine rust and dirt particles that the heavier diesel fuel will pick up.

****

University of Illinois research shows that pigs between three and six weeks old will gain one pound on as little as 1 1/2 to 2 pounds of feed. This points up the importance of a palatable creep ration for pigs.

****

If you buy feeder pigs, make every effort to see that they are healthy and thrifty. Larger pigs generally go on full feed with less setback than smaller pigs. Buying pigs of uniform weight and size will enable you to sell and handle them together.

****

Average production of about 687,000 dairy cows in Illinois last year was about 7,032 pounds of milk.

-30-

HDN:mfb
3/23/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

"Feed Automation: For Progress--For Profit" will be a major exhibit area at the 1960 University of Illinois Farm and Home Festival, March 31 and April 1-2. Main purpose of the exhibit is to help farmers put together the mechanized feeding system best suited for their individual feeding requirements.

****

Tests at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station show that lambs fed a pelleted ration turned in a better performance than lambs fed the same rations in meal form.

****

Here are weather conditions that can make corn borers a serious threat: (1) cool weather until corn planting time, (2) a mild summer, (3) average or above-average rainfall and (4) calm weather during the corn borer moth flight in June.

****

Using lambs to glean cornfields before and after harvest can bring a farmer an extra $14 to $36 an acre, reports a University of Illinois lamb research worker.

****

Home owners looking for practical home improvement ideas will profit from a visit to the University of Illinois Farm and Home Festival March 31 to April 2. A special contest exhibit features some of the best home improvement ideas adopted by Illinois home owners during the past year.

****

Winter is rough on outside wiring. Check insulators, ground connections and all outside wiring for damage from ice, falling limbs or just general wear and tear.

-30-

HDN:mfb
3/16/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Illinois farmers are increasing the share of the market for hogs. They produced 11.5 percent of the nation's hogs in the ten years 1948-57 and 12.4 percent last year. In the corn belt alone, Illinois farmers produced 16.5 percent of the winter pigs in 1949-58 and 17.5 percent this year.

****

The unusually cold weather of the past few weeks has cut egg production 10 percent below that of a year ago for the entire nation. In some sections production is down 25 to 30 percent. Prices are moving higher, as much as 10 cents a dozen in some areas.

****

The Midwest today produces only 71 percent of the fed cattle. During the 1930's the corn belt fattened 83 percent.

****

Cold March weather has destroyed at least 60 percent of the commercial peach crop. Therefore the surviving few will skyrocket in value.

****

Cattlemen planning to pasture steers this summer should work them up to a full feed of grain during March and April. This applies mostly to steers that have been wintered on rations composed largely of roughages with little grain.

****

Ask your farm adviser for the leaflet, "1960 Beef Cattle Feeding Suggestions." It contains the latest information on developments in beef cattle feeding, such as stilbestrol, antibiotics, urea and so forth.

****

Don't grind hay for dairy cattle. Grinding may considerably reduce its digestibility.

-30-

HDN:mfb
3/30/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

A cash-grain farmer can't count on commercial fertilizer to offset the effects of long-term continuous croppings. Years of high-level tillage burn up organic matter and break down soil aggregates. Even though the soil might have plenty of nutrients, it won't have the water-holding capacity to make good use of them.

****

Illinois farmers plan to grow a record share of the nation's corn in 1960. They plan to plant 10,362,000 acres this year, which would be 12.1 percent of the U. S. total acreage of corn. Last year Illinois farmers planted 11.8 percent of the nation's corn.

****

It takes at least five years of extensive testing and costs at least a million dollars to put a new agricultural chemical on the market.

****

A University of Illinois agricultural economist says tenant farmers on the most productive Illinois land have investments of $14,000 to $17,000. This total includes machinery, livestock, feed, grain and seeds.

****

The most important single livestock management practice is to keep traffic in or near livestock areas to a minimum.

****

How much protein supplement are your growing-fattening pigs eating? From 50 pounds to market weight, pigs on pasture should eat about 1/2 pound of a 36 to 40 percent supplement daily. Pigs in drylot will need twice that amount.

****

Crowding too many lambs and ewes into one lot may cause heavy losses from coccidiosis.

-30-

HDN:mfb
4/6/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Fertilizer use has been the biggest change in farming. Farmers applied eight times as much nitrogen in 1958-59 as they did 10 years ago. Use of soluble phosphate has increased about 2 1/2 times. Potash application has tripled.

****

Heavy equipment used too early on wet soil brings on serious compaction problems. It hurts the soil's capacity to take in water and air and prevents roots from penetrating freely.

****

The farm price support program and related programs cost over $5 billion in the last fiscal year and $19 billion for the past five years.

****

A University of Illinois agricultural economist figures that use of minimum tillage instead of conventional tillage saves farmers $146 to $159 in operating costs on 100 acres of corn.

****

Larger farms can operate with lower costs per acre. Studies by University agricultural economists show that labor, machinery and building costs average about $10 an acre less on 300-acre than on 150-acre grain farms.

****

Farms are getting larger and the number of farms has dropped. In 1950 Illinois had 195,000 farms. In 1954 there were 175,000. Now there are fewer than 165,000.

****

Larger operations often have cost advantages. For example, farm records show that farmers averaging 43 litters of hogs a year produced pork for about $2 a hundred pounds less than farmers raising only 11 litters.

-30-

HDN:mfb
4/20/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

A University of Illinois agricultural economist says it is unlikely that prices of fed cattle will decline as sharply this year as they did last year. Prices are now at a lower level. Less competition from pork and a slightly stronger demand will help to strengthen the market in the next few months.

****

Cocklebur and Dutchman's breeches are the two poisonous plants most likely to kill Illinois livestock this spring, warns a University of Illinois veterinarian.

****

Prospects for Illinois peaches are better than was predicted in early March.

****

The 1960 price supports for soybeans, oats, barley and grain sorghums will be at least as high as those for 1959 crops. The minimum price support for corn will be at the national rate of $1.06. This is six cents a bushel below 1959 supports.

****

It is often possible to make an old horse barn into a satisfactory cattle shed by opening a side wall and removing stalls and mangers.

****

Good legume pasture can help to cut the feed bill of pregnant sows. In University of Illinois tests, sows getting 2.5 pounds of corn per head daily on good legume pastures produced litters equal to those from sows getting more grain and some protein supplement. Minerals were fed free choice to all lots.

-30-

HDN:mfb
4/27/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

In recent University of Illinois tests with commercial nitrogen, soil scientists found that two years after application the crops had used about 20 percent of the nitrogen, 40 percent was still in the soil, presumably available for plant use, and about 10 percent had leached away. Thirty percent had vanished in other ways, mostly through the air by denitrification.

****

Stalk rot killed 41 percent of the corn plants in fields surveyed last season by the University of Illinois Department of Plant Pathology.

****

Soil survey work has been carried out in 86 Illinois counties during the past 50 years.

****

Farmers preparing for spring painting should remember that paint is the primary source of lead poisoning in cattle. Poisoned cattle will show apparent blindness and sometimes paralysis. Severely poisoned cattle may show weakness, trembling and diarrhea.

****

Switching to confinement systems has created management problems that many swine growers did not expect. Disease control, manure handling, tail biting, scheduling of farrowings, and building design have caused most of the new trouble.

****

Home owners and amateur gardeners troubled by anemic lawns may discover the core of the problem by having the soil tested.

****

Make sure that lawn fertilizers contain sufficient nitrogen.

-30-

HDN:mfb
5/4/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

City growth, new highways and industrial development are taking about one million acres of land a year from agricultural use. But even at this rate it will take several decades before agricultural output is affected significantly, says a University of Illinois agricultural economist.

****

Hay-crushing machines slashed field curing time in half in three tests by University of Illinois agricultural engineers last spring and summer. In all three tests, crushed hay was ready for baling at least a day earlier than uncrushed hay.

****

Most home plans now published are for city lots. These plans may need some alterations before they meet the special needs of farm living.

****

Rising sales of feed-handling equipment show a growing interest in on-the-farm feed processing, explains a University of Illinois agricultural economist.

****

Push early lambs for the seasonally high markets in June. In recent years an 85- to 90-pound choice lamb marketed in June has been worth as much as a 100-pound choice lamb marketed in September, a 105-pound lamb in October and a 115-pound lamb in November or December.

****

If you find it necessary to change "Bossy's" feed, do it gradually over a period of a few days. Dairy cows are creatures of habit. Any sudden change in feeding or management tends to upset them. The result is usually lower milk production.

-30-

HDN:mfb
5/11/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Foresters are taking to the air these days to improve timber inventories on the ground. Using aerial photographs, the flying timbermen can determine tree heights, crown diameters and in some cases tree species in the laboratory without ever stepping into the timber.

****

Manganese deficiency symptoms in soybeans and oats are becoming more common in central Illinois, explains a University of Illinois agronomist. Manganese-deficient plants develop yellow areas between leaf veins. Best way to correct the deficiency in Illinois is to spray the plants with manganese sulphate.

****

University of Illinois research indicates that dairy cows on corn or sorghum silage should also receive at least one pound of hay per 100 pounds of body weight.

****

The farmer's best insurance against barren cows is a complete physical and fertility check of herd bulls before the breeding season.

****

No pet dog clean-up is complete without getting rid of fleas in the dog's bed. Either wash the bedding or burn it. This together with frequent dustings will keep the dog comfortable.

****

Brown branches on evergreen shrubs may indicate "winter burn." If so, prune dead or burned branches back to the green wood. Usually the plants will recover in one or two growing seasons. Plants that show one-half to two-thirds damage should be replaced.

-30-

HDN:mfb
5/18/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

A recent Bureau of the Census report shows that farm youth fall behind their city cousins in plans to attend college. Among the farm youth graduating from high school this year, less than one-third plan to attend college. In contrast, slightly more than half of the urban and slightly less than half of the rural nonfarm youth plan to go on to college.

****

4-H Club work has invaded Chicago. More than 1,400 youth have worked in the Chicago 4-H program since it started three years ago. At present the program lists nearly 1,000 boys and girls. Thirty new clubs were formed for 1960, bringing the city's total to 66 active clubs.

****

Amino acids are the "building blocks" of protein.

****

Weed-killing chemicals that aren't handled properly can often do more harm than good. Vapors from such chemicals as 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T can drift through the air and attack trees, shrubs and bushes. Excessive applications to control weeds in lawns may leach through the soil and injure tree roots.

****

The supply of corn on farms April 1 of this year was estimated at 2,088 million bushels, 15 percent more than the year before. But farmers are rapidly using and selling their corn. Disappearance during the quarter ended April 1 totaled 1,006 million bushels, nearly 15 percent more than in the same period last year.

****

Only 10.2 percent of the farm youth now enrolled in college are studying agriculture, according to a Bureau of the Census report.

-30-

IDN:mfb
/25/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

University of Illinois researchers are raising and grooming some 175 "disease-free" pigs as initial breeding stock for the College of Agriculture's new animal breeding research farm. Through rigid sanitary controls, these pigs will escape 80 percent or more of the common swine diseases.

****

University of Illinois agronomists have released 3,600 bushels of the new Lindarin soybean for seed increase during 1960. More than 100 Illinois seed growers will work to make the new variety available to farmers by 1961. Lindarin results from a cross of Lincoln and Mandarin varieties.

****

Livestock producers will find that grain sorghum is an excellent feed for all livestock, but for best results it should be cracked or ground.

****

Face flies that bombarded Illinois livestock for the first time last summer are gathering strength for a return invasion this summer. The first of these pests should show up around June 1.

****

Run-down cows may need as much as eight to ten pounds of grain a day plus all the roughage they can eat during the dry period.

****

For normal growth, Holstein heifers should make an average daily gain of 1.5 pounds; Brown Swiss, 1.4; Ayrshires, 1.3; Guernseys, 1.25; and Jerseys, 1.1.

-30-

HDN:mfb
6/1/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Illinois farmers set a new fertilizer-buying record in 1959. Sales jumped 17 percent over those of 1958. Mixed fertilizer sales totaled 663,138 tons compared with a previous high of 544,492 tons in 1958. Nitrogen material sales climbed to 216,272 tons compared with 177,254 tons the year before.

****

Dairy calves receiving whole milk until they were at least two weeks old outgained calves started on the recommended level of milk replacer at five days of age in recent University of Illinois feeding trials.

****

University of Illinois research shows that farmers can stymie internal parasites in lambs by weaning or separating the lambs from the ewes on pasture.

****

One hundred farmers in the area surrounding the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station pooled 38,000 pounds of wool this spring. This is the third year in which the Dixon Springs Station has cooperated and assisted in this cooperative marketing program.

****

Farmers should not put their hands in the mouths of sick cattle.

****

Farmland values in Illinois seem to have leveled off. According to a recent survey by the USDA, average prices of Illinois farmland rose about one percent in the spring of 1959 and then settled back the same amount during the fall and winter.

-30-

HDN:mfb
6/8/60

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Pastures, small grain, corn, vegetable crops, cattle, sheep and horses on the Station are looking good, and work abounds. Today we're planting corn and sorghum, cultivating, side-dressing nitrogen, and spraying the corn with herbicides. In other words, we're in all stages of corn and sorghum culture except harvest.

Along with all of the corn business, we're clipping pastures, making hay and combining winter oats, barley and fescue seed. The livestock boys are weighing cattle to determine periodic pasture gains, and the sheep researchers are weaning, weighing, grading and measuring fleece and body parts on some 200 Suffolk and Targhee lambs. So, you see, there is plenty of activity here today.

Corn From Wheel Drill

On the turkey farm, the visitor may see an unusual way of growing corn. George McKibben, Station agronomist, has drilled the corn in seven-inch rows with the idea of making a heavy forage crop for the silos. This corn has been nitrated heavily, and George says that it should make two crops. Next winter we plan to use the silage from the drilled corn for wintering calves, comparing it with several other silage crops. We plan to make silage from regular corn, dwarf corn, grain sorghum and only the grain from sorghum.

Complete Fall Seedings

Some of the best pasture seedings on the Station today are those that were made early and completely last fall. A complete seeding means that the grass, clover and alfalfa were all seeded at one time in late August or early September, in contrast to a split seeding--grasses in the fall and legumes in the spring.

A fellow owes it to himself to take a look at the Morse place seeding, one of the best we've seen this year. George McKibben's abilities are many and varied,

but his foremost accomplishment is that of "pasture maker." On the Morse place, following the removal of corn for silage, George seeded 2 bushels of barley, 10 pounds of alfalfa, 4 pounds of red clover, 1 pound of ladino and 6 pounds of orchard grass on each acre. This spring the seeding crew broadcast 5 pounds of lespedeza and, again, 1 pound of ladino. The clovers and alfalfa are topping the barley. That will make combining a little tough. But we are more interested in the pasture than the grain.

HAC:rl
6-23-60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Giant foxtail growing in corn and soybean fields could steal as much as one-fourth of the crop this summer. Three years' research at the University of Illinois shows that if a farmer has 50 foxtail plants in a foot of row he could lose 25 percent of his corn yield or 28 percent of his soybean yield.

****

Two University of Illinois milk scientists report that recent developments in milk sterilization make it possible to produce sterile milk with flavor comparable to that of fresh pasteurized milk.

****

A University of Illinois dairy scientist has kept cow udder tissue cells alive in laboratory test tubes for more than two and one-half years.

****

University of Illinois tests show that lambs shorn in the summer gain faster than unshorn lambs. In fact, the U. of I. shorn lambs gained one and one-half times as fast. They also seemed more comfortable, alert and active.

****

The University of Illinois has released a new 32-page circular called "Plant Breeding as a Hobby."

****

Cattle feeders putting up grass-legume silage should carefully check its moisture content. Silage with more than 75 to 80 percent moisture will not produce satisfactory gains.

-30-

HDN:mfb
6/22/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

The black cutworm now looms as a bigger threat to corn than usual because of Illinois' siege of wet weather. Adult cutworm moths usually lay their eggs in low, wet spots. Since so many fields are completely water-soaked, egg-laying is more general than usual.

****

Average butterfat production in Illinois Dairy Herd Improvement Association herds reached a record high last year--averaging more than 400 pounds per cow. One herd in every four produced 450 or more pounds of butterfat. And a record 62,375 cows were tested.

****

Diseases aren't making much headway in oats this year, according to University of Illinois plant pathologists.

****

Home gardeners should soon be on the alert for a trio of tomato diseases--early blight, Septoria leaf spot and anthracnose.

****

Unless extra precautions are taken, accidents could cause 14,000 deaths and 1,250,000 disabling injuries during the next 12 months. Also, 40,000 buildings may be destroyed by fire.

****

Accidents to farm people in this country accounted for more than 13,000 deaths and a million injuries in 1959.

****

The green algae that often collect on shorelines of ponds and slow-moving bodies of water may be very poisonous to cattle. The hazard increases when there has been no wind for several days to disturb the algae growth and disperse the poisonous material.

-30-

HDN:mfb
6/29/60

'rom Extension Editorial Office
:ollege of Agriculture
Jniversity of Illinois
Jrbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Illinois dairymen turned to artificial breeding at a record-breaking rate last year. During 1959 the number of cows bred artificially equaled 35.4 percent of all Illinois cows kept for milk production. The previous high was 34.6 percent in 1958.

****

Unvaccinated hogs help to spread cholera, and the number of unvaccinated, unprotected animals is growing. It's estimated that only 10 percent of all U. S. hogs were vaccinated in 1959 as against 50 percent in 1950.

****

The 1960 spring pig crop is the smallest, in relation to population, since the drouth years of the 1930s.

****

If temperatures are normal for the rest of the season, Illinois soils hold enough moisture now to carry the growing crops to maturity even if they receive no further rainfall.

****

2,4-D should prove useful in corn now, especially where preemergence sprays were not used earlier and where wet weather has made weeds too much for a cultivator to handle alone.

****

Farmers cut the spring pig crop much more than they had indicated earlier. According to a USDA report, they saved 49.1 million pigs between December 1 and June 30. This was 16 percent less than were saved last year. Last December they reported that they would cut production only 11 percent.

****

The Illinois Rural Safety Council estimates that accidents will kill 48 farmers every single day of 1960.

-30-

HDN:mfb
7/6/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Hog producers still a little skeptical of performance testing's value should glance at the Illinois Swine Testing Station's five-year record from 1955 to 1959. It shows that (1) backfat thickness was significantly reduced, (2) average daily gains increased and (3) feed efficiency improved considerably.

****

Weather during harvesting will play a major role in determining the price for wheat that farmers sell directly from the field. Wet harvesting weather lowers quality of wheat, makes it difficult to store and speeds up movement into terminal markets. All of these factors tend to lower wheat prices.

****

Growers estimate this year's Illinois apple crop at about 1,850,000 bushels. This is a decrease of nearly 20 percent from last year.

****

The 1960 spring pig crop is the smallest in relation to population since the drouth years of the 1930s.

****

For the past 11 years, long-fed steer calves and long-fed yearling steers have made the most return above feed costs and purchase price of the feeder.

****

Research workers at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station have drilled corn in rows only seven inches apart. They plan to use this corn for making a heavy forage crop for silage.

****

A University of Illinois agronomist says tissue tests are a good way to check your corn for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium or magnesium shortages.

-30-

HDN:mfb
7/13/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

The 1960 corn crop seems likely to fall well short of the record 1959 crop. Production for this year is officially forecast at 4,079 million bushels--down 7 percent below last year. The 1960 corn crop is not yet in the crib. But, as it stands, it about equals the amount of corn being used in this country and exported this year.

****

A study in the north-central states indicates that, from 1945 to 1954, 31 percent of the farmers retired, died or took nonfarm jobs. But young farmers obtained only 16 percent of the available farms. The remaining 15 percent were taken over by operating farmers to enlarge their existing units.

****

Commercial soybean varieties are due to get tougher against Phytophthora rot--one of the major soybean disease threats in Illinois. Resistance is being bred into several of the more important varieties for Illinois. However, it will probably be several years before farmers can buy the new seed.

****

Illinois record-keeping hog farmers averaged only $114 earnings for every $100 of feed used in 1959. But the top one-fifth of these farms earned $38 more for every $100 of feed fed than the low one-fifth.

****

An ambitious project to produce better midwestern lambs for today's consumers is gathering steam in the north-central region. Experiment stations in Illinois, Ohio and North Dakota are playing a key role in the cooperative project designed to measure lamb and carcass characteristics that affect the value of lambs.

-30-

HDN:mfb
7/21/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Research into greater industrial uses for farm products is one key to breaking down giant agricultural surpluses. But it's wishful thinking to believe that research started now can find new and economic uses for all the grain presently stored under government loan, explains a University of Illinois food technologist.

****

Winter cover crops are worth considering for erosion control and perhaps late fall and early spring pasture. Crops like field brome, rye and rye grass can be seeded any time now between the rows of corn or soybeans.

****

Farmers can treat their ponds with larvacides if mosquitoes are causing trouble. For ponds without fish, use a 1 percent concentration of DDT, chlordane or toxaphene. Use pyrethrins on ponds that contain fish. Mix according to direction, and apply about 10 quarts of pyrethrin material per acre of water.

****

Face flies are increasing in northern Illinois. A recent check of cattle on pasture showed that face flies ranged in number from 2 to 25 per head, with an average of 8.

****

Farming claims more "on-the-job" deaths than any other major industry.

****

As of July 1, farmers in 21 reporting states were feeding 5,376,000 head of cattle. This number is only 4 percent more than last year.

-30-

HDN:mfb
7/28/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Beginning salaries for University of Illinois agricultural graduates in June average $4,950. The range is $4,000 to $6,000 annually--with the majority between $4,500 and $5,500.

****

If the air cleaner on your combine becomes plugged with chaff, reduce the trouble by using a dry-type cleaner above the oil-bath cleaner. Also try putting a frame covered with a sack around the air cleaner inlet.

****

Some of the world's top soil scientists will tour Illinois farms and examine its soils during mid-August. They will be part of the group attending the International Soil Science Congress in Madison, Wisconsin, from August 15 to 23.

****

A research program designed to help put firmer, yet well-colored tomatoes on the market has swung into action again this summer at the University of Illinois.

****

Since 1950, 51 Illinois counties have dropped in population, while the other 51 have gained. The state's largest cities and surrounding counties have received 96 percent of the total population increase.

****

Illinois population is now estimated at slightly over 10 million. That's a 15 percent gain from 1950.

****

The total 1960 calf crop is officially estimated at 41,646,00 head.

-30-

HDN:je
8/3/60
NO

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

The University of Illinois College of Agriculture announces that its annual Cattle Feeders Day will be held Friday, September 2. More than 1,000 persons are expected to attend this event, which attracts cattlemen from all over the state and from surrounding states as well.

****

The Mid-West Plan Service has released another in its series of equipment plan books for livestock growers--this one written especially for sheepmen.

****

Corn and soybeans will be the crops featured at the 1960 University of Illinois Agronomy Day on September 14.

****

Hot, humid weather always means bluecomb trouble for Illinois poultry raisers. In typical outbreaks, apparently healthy flocks show a sudden drop in feed consumption, severe diarrhea, darkening of the head, comb or wattles, shriveling of the skin and loss of body weight and fever in the last stages.

****

Landlord and tenant relations on east-central Illinois farms are generally satisfactory, a recent University of Illinois survey shows. Among those who answered a question about changing their present leases, 71 percent expressed satisfaction or further explained their lease arrangements. Only 29 percent suggested changes.

****

To help you estimate the size of silo needed for your herd, figure that one cubic foot of settled silage will weigh about 35 pounds, or approximately the amount fed each day to each cow.

-30-

HDN:cm
8/10/60
NO

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

To control face flies, use a bait containing 75 percent corn syrup, 25 percent water and .02 percent DDVP. Commercial preparations of this bait are available at agricultural supply companies. Commercial preparations of face fly repellents are also available.

****

Nearly ideal conditions produced some of the highest oat yields ever recorded on the University of Illinois agronomy farm this year. Agronomists report that several rotation plots produced oat yields of over 100 bushels an acre.

****

Feeder cattle prices have dropped more in the past 12 months than prices of any other major farm product.

****

A considerable amount of late planting seems to pose a more serious threat to soybean yields this year than do diseases, according to a University of Illinois plant pathologist.

****

University of Illinois agronomists say alfalfa may be safely planted up to August 25 in central Illinois or as late as September 10 in southern Illinois.

****

University of Illinois agronomists will show their latest crop and soil research at Agronomy Day on September 14 at Urbana. The 18-stop tour of the agronomy research farm will feature a preview of the future as crop and soil scientists show their research, report results to date, and suggest what these findings will mean in years to come.

-30-

HDN:mf
8/17/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

A University of Illinois agricultural economist figures that Illinois soybean growers will average $1.95 to $2.00 a bushel for their 1960 crop. But prices could bulge above this figure at some time.

****

Monon, a new soft wheat variety, will be on the market for fall seeding. This new wheat is one or two inches shorter than Knox and a day earlier in maturity.

****

Wheat yields were much better this year than in 1959. The official estimate is 29 bushels an acre--14 percent more than last year.

****

The average investment for irrigating field crops is high. Among 40 Illinois farmers, the investment averaged $7,433 per farm, or about $86 per acre irrigated.

****

Recent prices of feeder calves are off $6.00 to $8.00 a hundred pounds from year-before levels. This decline will cut sharply into the incomes of the considerable number of Illinois farmers who produce calves for sale.

****

A University of Illinois landscape specialist says that many home owners are watering their lawns too often. The key to successful watering is to thoroughly soak the upper six inches of soil about once a week.

****

A University of Illinois soil conservationist predicts that, by the year 2,000, the population of the United States will probably be about 85 percent urban.

-30-

HDN:mfb
8/31/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

University of Illinois research shows that dwarf corn silage compares favorably with regular corn silage. In recent tests steer calves receiving dwarf corn silage gained slightly better than steers receiving regular corn silage in both fattening and wintering rations. Yields of dry matter per acre were very similar.

****

Cattle receiving high-moisture corn made slower and more expensive gains than similar cattle eating dry corn in recent University of Illinois tests.

****

University of Illinois plant scientists have developed a new super-sugary sweet corn that could be a dream come true for the corn-on-the-cob connoisseur.

****

Estimated weekly production of pork under federal inspection has been running surprisingly close to the high levels of 1959. Output the first week of August was down only 10 percent from the year before. The second week was down only 3 percent, and the third week 1 percent.

****

In 1959 an estimated 8 percent of all corn harvested in the corn-belt states was field-shelled. This compares with about 2 percent in 1956.

****

Cattle feeders can expect less price decline this fall than seemed likely earlier this year, according to University of Illinois ag economists.

-30-

HDN:mfb
9/7/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

"Stress feeds" cannot be relied on to protect incoming feeder cattle against shipping fever. University of Illinois veterinarians recommend treating affected cattle individually.

****

Extramural courses for farmers are being offered around the state this fall by the University of Illinois College of Agriculture. U. of I. county farm advisers can give details.

****

Among changes in methods of beef production predicted by an Oklahoma cattle expert are a rise in cattle numbers, more performance testing and growing consumer demand for red meat.

****

An Ohio agricultural engineer predicts that tomorrow's farmstead will resemble a plant or factory, designed to produce one type of livestock or livestock product.

****

Just like fertilizer or feed, farm buildings, fences, equipment and roads contribute to profitable production. Improved farmsteads can lead to higher incomes.

****

Brains, judgment and intuition are still necessary if the best engineered poultry buildings and equipment are to operate efficiently.

****

Rapid changes in dairy production methods make a well-planned, flexible barnlot system more important than ever. So if you are building, plan ahead.

-30-

GFS:mfb
9/14/60

From ision Editorial Office
f Agriculture
Colle ty of Illinois
Unive Illinois
Urba

FARM FILLERS

Taxes paid on Illinois farm land climbed to a record high in 59. Illinois landowners paid out $118.7 million, or 14 percent of eir net income.

****

University of Illinois entomologists say the USDA has approved the insecticide Thimet for controlling Hessian flies in wheat. Farmers can buy Thimet in granular form at agricultural supply companies.

****

Hessian flies are presenting the biggest threat in recent years to fall-planted wheat fields. A recent survey shows that Hessian flies have increased this year to an average of 11.4 puparia per 100 stalks of wheat. Last year the average was only 9.2 puparia.

****

The Illinois Cooperative Crop Reporting Service and the Weather Bureau estimate that about 96 percent of Illinois corn and nearly 98 percent of the soybeans will "beat the freeze" if the first killing frosts come at the normal dates or later.

****

Two-thirds of our farm population produce less than one-fourth of the total product going through the market.

****

The 1961 University of Illinois Farm and Home Festival will be held April 6, 7 and 8.

****

Farm prices have declined about one-fifth since 1952, putting an income squeeze on all commercial agriculture.

-30-

HDN:mfb
9/21/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Hen depreciation is the second largest cost of egg production. Factors that influence hen depreciation are (1) mature pullet cost, (2) rate of egg laying, (3) deaths, (4) market return from the hen and (5) length of production period.

****

Total milk production in the United States has held around 125 billion pounds annually for the past five years. Total output has been stable because the increase in production per cow has been offset by a decrease in the number of cows.

****

Early fall pastures may look good, but in general they are low in feed nutrients needed for top milk production.

****

A survey shows that taxes on Illinois farm land totaled $118.7 million, or 24 percent, in 1959. While Illinois landowners paid $3.93 an acre, other corn-belt landowners averaged only $2.00 an acre.

****

If killing frosts come at the normal dates or later, about 96 percent of Illinois corn will "beat the freeze." About 98 percent of the soybeans should mature before normal killing frost dates.

****

Cow numbers are decreasing faster in Illinois than in most other states. In the past 10 years Illinois has lost 30 percent of its cows, while the whole country has lost only 13 percent.

****

Fall is the best time for planting shrubs. Shrubs planted during the fall develop good root systems before spring. The soil is also drier during the fall, and consequently easier to work.

-30-

HDN:mfb
9/28/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Don't waste money on expensive mineral supplements if a simple mixture will do the same job. University of Illinois livestock specialists point out that the old mixture of 2 parts limestone, 2 parts bone meal and 1 part trace-mineral salt is still highly recommended.

****

In recent University of Illinois tests, both rolled and ground high-moisture corn produced faster and more efficient beef gains than shelled corn.

****

A University of Illinois veterinarian says most of the suggested mass of uses of tranquilizers in beef cattle are of little or no benefit, and on occasion they may even be harmful.

****

Feed often accounts for two-thirds of the total cost of producing eggs. But with today's cost-price squeeze, poultrymen should cut this figure to one-half, according to a University of Illinois poultry specialist.

****

"Meeting Change in Agriculture and Industry" will be the theme for the third annual University of Illinois Agricultural Industries Forum on January 31 and February 1, 1961.

****

Costs of harvesting corn will vary with type of equipment, moisture content of the corn when harvest begins, methods of storage, field loss and amount of corn produced.

****

Fall is the best time to plant evergreen shrubs.

-30-

HDN:cm
10/5/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

If this corn-picking season runs like those of the past few years, more than 200 Illinois farmers will be injured or killed in corn-picker accidents.

****

During a 37-year period at the University of Illinois, fewer Rambouillet lambs have died before weaning than lambs of three other breeds studied.

****

A University of Illinois livestock specialist says that, if meat scraps and tankage are cheap enough, they can safely replace half of the soybean meal in corn and fortified soybean meal swine rations.

****

University of Illinois outlook specialist Larry Simerl says prices for fat cattle seem likely to average $1.50 to $2.00 a hundred pounds lower in 1961 than in 1960.

****

More than 210 Illinois farmers last year disproved the theory that "it can't happen to me." They were killed or seriously injured by their own corn pickers.

****

The Universities Bond Issue now facing Illinois voters indirectly affects the teaching program of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture.

****

The hormone preparations Synovex and Rapigain are both used in cattle-feeding programs, but stilbestrol is cheaper and usually results in the highest profits, according to University of Illinois animal scientists.

-30-

HDN:mfb
10/19/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

A University of Illinois farm outlook specialist says the 1960 corn crop may sell for around $1.00 a bushel. That's about four cents less than the average received for the 1959 crop.

****

U. S. Department of Agriculture research shows that farmers who harvest their corn with the conventional ear corn picker lose more corn than those who use picker-shellers or corn combines.

****

Amino acids are the "building blocks" of protein.

****

University of Illinois veterinarians warn that only skunks bred and raised in captivity and properly immunized against rabies should be used as pets.

****

Cold, damp fall weather triggers the distemper virus that kills roughly 70 percent of the unvaccinated dogs it attacks. This toll is unnecessary. Vaccination against distemper is nearly 90 percent effective, and it usually lasts the dog's lifetime.

****

Cattle on wintering rations respond better to antibiotics than cattle on fattening rations, according to University of Illinois animal scientists.

****

Dairymen can save time, money and labor by clipping their cows before turning them in to the barns for the winter.

****

Ground soybeans usually can't compete economically with other feeds for dairy cows.

-30-

IDN:mfb
10/26/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

University of Illinois research indicates that dwarf corn silage may make a strong bid to replace regular corn silage as the farmer's best source of important roughage nutrients.

****

More than 3,000 strains of oats from all over the world have been tested for their ability to withstand attacks of yellow dwarf disease at the University of Illinois.

****

The 13th annual University of Illinois Custom Spray Operators' Training School will be held January 25-26, 1961, in Urbana.

****

Other hormone preparations are appearing on the market, but to date none can compete with stilbestrol in producing fast cattle gains, according to University of Illinois animal scientists.

****

A University of Illinois livestock specialist reports that cattle and hogs fed protein while they're gleaning cornfields will gain enough weight to more than pay the supplement's cost.

****

Rake and burn leaves from any lawn plants that are afflicted with disease. Otherwise the disease will overwinter in leaves on the ground.

****

Rose bushes should be banked any time after the first hard freeze, but before the ground freezes. By now most of Illinois has had the first freeze.

-30-

HDN:mfb
11/2/60

rom Extension Editorial Office
ollege of Agriculture
niversity of Illinois
rbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Total plant food sales in Illinois for the first six months f 1960 were the second largest ever reported for any six-month period. owever, sales were almost 10 percent under the record-breaking first ix months of 1959.

****

Latest developments in panelized farm buildings and conversion f old farm buildings to grain storage highlight the 1960 Farm Strucures Day program at the University of Illinois Thursday, November 17.

****

University of Illinois dairy scientists say dwarf corn was asier to chop than regular corn in tests this fall. And the pint-sized orn yielded nearly as much silage and dry matter per acre. They beieve the dwarf corn TDN yield per acre may equal that of the regular orn even though total green matter yields were less.

****

The report of cattle on feed October 1 shows that farmers in 6 major feeding states were feeding just one percent more cattle on ctober 1 than they fed last fall. This increase is less than the rise n population.

****

University of Illinois beef scientists find that cattle on intering rations respond better to antibiotics than cattle on fattening ations.

****

Since evergreens stay active during the winter while other lants are dormant, they need a good supply of water before the ground reezes.

****

Disappearance of corn in each of the past three years far xceeded all previous records.

-30-

DN:mfb
1/10/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Even though they eat more, large cows generally give greater returns over feed costs because their production is substantially higher than that of small cows of the same breed.

****

Relatively good hog prices recently should foster sizable increases in the 1961 spring pig crop, but a University of Illinois economist feels that the spring crop is not likely to be excessive, even if it is 14 percent higher than last spring's crop.

****

Tips for wintering newly planted trees: mulch the base of the trunk; wrap trunk up to first branch and stake the tree or brace it.

****

Felled pheasants on a warm day should be drawn immediately if you can't get them to a cooler right away.

****

Illinois farmers lead the nation in soil testing, one out of every three farms having been tested in 1959, according to a University of Illinois agronomist.

****

University of Illinois agronomists have found little difference in effectiveness between liquid and dry fertilizers.

****

Good reading and talking habits develop in a child from hearing nursery rhymes and songs during the early rocking-chair days, says a University of Illinois family life specialist.

-30-

RFH:mfb
11/22/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

A University of Illinois farm outlook specialist points out that if marketings turn out as the latest quareterly pig crop report indicates, hog prices may range from $17 to $19 during the next four months.

****

A University of Illinois dairy scientist says research at several experiment stations shows that large cows pay off with higher milk production than their smaller breed sisters. Research shows an increase of about 20 pounds of butterfat for every 100-pound rise in body weight.

****

One out of every three farms in Illinois took advantage of the state's excellent soil-testing laboratories last year to again make Illinois the top soil-testing state in the nation.

****

Thickly planted, thin-stemmed varieties of sudangrass hay dry faster than others.

****

If a farmer has 50 foxtail plants in a foot of row, he can lose 25 percent of his corn or 28 percent of his soybean yield, according to University of Illinois field crops specialists.

****

Agricultural economists at the University of Illinois estimate that Illinois farm families bought more than $2 billion worth of goods and services last year.

****

Farmers make up an important source of purchasing power for many types of urban products. And the total value of many of these purchases continues to climb.

-30-

HDN:mfb
11/30/60

om Extension Editorial Office
llege of Agriculture
iversity of Illinois
bana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Recent University of Illinois dairy research showed that derfed bulls weren't ready for service until 20 months of age--eight nths later than the normally fed bulls. For the next four years eir semen production was consistently 40 percent less.

****

The 1959 agricultural census shows that Illinois farmland has average value of $319 compared with $230 in 1954.

****

DHIA records show that cows producing about 13,000 pounds of lk and 500 pounds of butterfat last year earned eight times as much ney per hour for their owners as cows producing about 8,000 pounds of lk and 300 pounds of butterfat.

****

Illinois hog farmers in DeKalb county recently launched an tificial breeding program for swine. It's a pilot project for Illi-is and one of the first in the United States.

****

University of Illinois grain marketing economists point out at the nation's real wheat surplus problem doesn't involve all types wheat. They say hard wheat is the main type in surplus on the mar-t today.

****

A University of Illinois entomologist estimates that about e-third of the cattle herds in Illinois have lice infestations.

****

Scientists are checking the possibilities of recruiting deep-rrowing earthworms to help solve the drainage problem in claypan soils southern Illinois.

-30-

N:mfb
2/7/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

University of Illinois agricultural economists say the 1959 farm census shows that the average value of Illinois farm land jumped from $230 in 1954 to $319 last year.

****

Agronomists at the University of Illinois are working to develop a borer-resistant corn variety.

****

In a recent study, University of Illinois dairy scientists found that underfed bulls weren't ready for service until 20 months of age--eight months later than the normally fed bulls in the test.

****

University of Illinois plant breeders are testing the possibilities of giving corn plants an extra set or two of chromosomes. Chromosomes carry genes that are the basic substance of life. The genes determine the various characteristics of a variety.

****

A University of Illinois livestock marketing economist suggests that hog producers should plan now to take advantage of present favorable hog prices but should be ready for price adjustments by the fall of 1961.

****

Consumers bought more than eight pounds of cheese per person in 1960--a 48 percent increase over the 1935-39 average.

****

Butter use averaged less than 8 pounds per person in 1960 compared with 17 pounds in 1935-39.

-30-

HDN:mfb
12/14/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

A University of Illinois farm economist points out that in the fiscal year ended last June 30 the United States exported $4 1/2 billion worth of farm products.

****

University of Illinois livestock marketing economists believe 1961 will be a time for caution in the cattle business. They expect that earnings from cattle will generally be relatively low. Producers will find it especially important to carefully select the time and place to market their cattle.

****

University of Illinois agricultural economists say that dairy farmers will probably produce a little more milk in 1961 than they did in 1960, but their prices are likely to average about the same.

****

Underfeeding is still the No. 1 dairy cattle feeding problem in Illinois.

****

Illinois purebred dairymen are turning to the new Dairy Herd Improvement Registry program at a record rate. Although DHIR is less than a year old, nearly one-third of all Illinois herds participating in official testing programs are now enrolled in the new plan.

****

In artificial breeding, bulls may be expected to service up to 100,000 cows a year.

****

Soybean production has taken only one big jump in the past five years. That was in 1958. The last two crops have been smaller than the 1958 crop. This is the first time since 1937 that soybean producers have gone two years without setting a new record.

-30-

HDN:mfb
12/20/60

From Extension Editorial Office
College of Agriculture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

FARM FILLERS

Soybean yields in 1960 averaged 23.8 bushels an acre--one-half bushel less than the record set in 1958. Total production of beans is figured at 559 million bushels--four percent short of the 1958 record.

****

Spray operators, insecticides and herbicides once again take the University of Illinois spotlight when the 13th annual Illinois Custom Spray Operators' Training School meets January 25-26.

****

New cases of "slobber" hay are being reported already this year in dairy cattle herds. University of Illinois dairy scientists warn dairymen who feed second cuttings of red clover and alfalfa hay or silage this winter to watch for signs of the slobber condition.

****

A University of Illinois land economist says prices paid for farm land have dropped somewhat in much of Illinois during the past year.

****

A University of Illinois agricultural economist believes that the family farm will remain the basic unit in American agriculture. But it will be more mechanized and more specialized and will require more capital investment than it has in the past.

****

Wheat yield is listed at 25.9 bushels an acre for 1960. That's 1 1/2 bushels less than in 1958. Production of wheat totaled 1,363 million bushels, 6 percent short of the 1958 record.

****

Oat yields averaged 42.9 bushels an acre this past year--2 1/2 bushels less than in 1958. The total production of oats is estimated at 1,162 million bushels. This is 17 percent less than in 1958 and 24 percent less than the all-time record set back in 1945.

-30-

HDN:mfb
12/28/60

It Says Here . . .

I Am The New Year...

The new year is a week old, but we thought you would enjoy the following poem as much as we did. It was written by Nick Kenny and appeared first in the New York Mirror.

I Am The New Year

I am the New Year--
A blank sheet of paper
On which to write the great American novel
Or paint an immortal masterpiece
Or just let me remain blank...

I am a newly minted coin
To be spent foolishly in a day
Or invested in happy plans for a life time...

I am twelve shining months
Which can be your pathway to the stars
Or a dead-end street to oblivion...

I am the New Year!
Three hundred and sixty-five days
In which to make a dream come true...

A fresh start--
So make the most of me...
Hold me tightly to your heart
Or let me slip through your careless fingers
Like the sand of Time...!

I am the NEW YEAR!

January Wall Chart...

Farm advisers will find the SUCCESSFUL FARMING wall chart for January enclosed in their packets.

1/7/60

Hats Off To Warren Myers...

In a recent Sunday issue of the Decatur Herald and Review, farm editor Charles Albright saluted Warren Myers on his tenth anniversary as farm adviser in Macon county.

Myers reported that in his judgment the two biggest improvements in the county during his 10-year tenure were (1) better livestock and (2) an increase of 20 bushels an acre in corn yields.

4-H'ers Good Photo Subjects...

A timely and interesting photo of 4-H'ers preparing for the X-tra Yield Contest won for H. Robert Wack of Stephenson county the Photography of the Month Award for November. The Photo led into a short story indicating where, when, and how the contest would be held in conjunction with county 4-H achievement day. A photo illustrating the place of a farmstead lighting tour in Henderson County took second place for Curt Eisenmayer. It, too, illustrated a story about a coming event.

Farm Experience In Research Results...

Farm Adviser O. O. Mowery, Macoupin County, recently did an excellent job of bringing local farmer experience into a research result story.

Several weeks ago we sent out the story on the results of planting soybeans in narrow rows. Mowery summed up these results and then followed it with the experiences of two farmers in his county who have used narrow rows successfully.

Not every research result story will lend itself to adding local farmer experiences. But, when they do, you'll be able to build up a lot more local interest and acceptance by using this method.

It Says Here . . .

Materials for Local Exhibit Workshops...

John Behrens reports that he will have a manual on "Exhibits and Displays for Agricultural Workers" ready for distribution by February 1. A copy will go to all county extension workers. In addition, each person who attended the recent exhibit workshops will receive a copy by franked mail.

Counties that were not represented at any of the workshops received a packet of catalog materials that was distributed during the training sessions. These packets were mailed to the farm adviser. Counties that were represented received their packets at the meeting. We're sorry that only one packet is available per county.

A set of 36 2 x 2 slides with a guide will be ready for use in local workshops on February 1. This slide set will be available only to counties that attended a training session. The slide set, the manual and the kit of catalogs should provide excellent teaching material for your workshops.

Four sets are available for loan. The maximum loan period will be one week, including transportation time. Please schedule the slide sets with John.

Appreciation for Evening Call...

Assistant youth adviser Bob Schmerbauch recently sent us a Friday edition of the DuQuoin Evening Call with the flat statement that this paper was "the best extension paper in the state."

To back up his figures, he called attention to a front-page story on a poultry meeting, the two pages of weekly farm news and the market page. He also called attention to the fact that the farm news page carried six articles from the College of Agriculture here, two from Dixon Springs, the farm adviser's column and the extension calendar.

Festival Slide Set and Film...

Want to tell the Farm and Home Festival story to a general audience or farm youth group in your county? If so, we may be able to help you.

We have two complete sets of a color slide story containing 50 slides and a tape with commentary that runs for eight minutes. It depicts a farm family going through last year's Festival and has items of interest for everyone. To project it successfully, you would need a good automatic projector and tape recorder.

We have also pieced together 30 minutes of on-the-spot "live sound" television film shot last year and aired over the local station. The sound track is of poor quality for large audiences, but small groups would enjoy it. We think the slide set would be the better bet if you have the equipment. This material will be sent from county to county starting February 1. Please fill out the following order and return it by January 27 to Jack Everly, 330 Mumford Hall. From our limited number of materials, we will try to serve you and confirm all dates.

****

(Check one)

I want the ___ slide set or the ___ film.

Date (1st choice)_____

(2nd choice)_____

(3rd choice)_____

Name_____

Address_____

1-14-60

It Says Here . . .

Festival Promotion Stickers...

In this week's packet each farm and home adviser will receive an orange and blue bumper strip announcing Farm and Home Festival.

We would like to have sent one for each assistant, but our budget was limited. We hope each of you will display your bumper strip to let people know about the Festival. In a few weeks we'll be sending you some special stories to help tell your audience about Festival plans.

Illinois Reference Folders...

Each farm and home adviser will also find the Illinois Reference Folder in their packet. This folder contains a considerable amount of information about the organization and work of the University.

A Report to Tazewell County...

Tazewell county citizens received a full public report on the home economics extension activities for the year.

Home adviser Frances S. King supplied the Pekin Times with a rather complete summary report of her 1959 extension activities. The paper gave it a three-column heading and a by-line.

Farm Department Sprouts at WEW...

St. Louis radio station WEW (770 on the dial) has undertaken steps to serve farm audiences by opening a farm service department. WEW has brought farm director Paul Vogel over from Kansas City to direct the programs. Paul told Jon and Harold the farm department would soon have a station wagon, and he would be visiting Illinois counties. You may want to include Paul's name on your mailing lists so that he will know of coming extension events. Send releases to him at WEW, 220 N. 4th St., St. Louis 2, Mo.

Parkinson Replaces Benson...

As many of you know, Ezra Taft Benson was to be the principal speaker for the Agricultural Industries Forum. But because of his recent illness his doctors have cut his schedule, including his appearance at the Forum.

Taking over as principal speaker will be Cyril Northcote Parkinson, widely known for his "Parkinson's Law." Mr. Parkinson is a visiting professor of political science and history at the University this year. His home is in Great Britain.

Cooperative Conservation Program...

Montgomery county's Pete Peterson recently took the leadership in publishing a leaflet outlining the county's agricultural conservation program. Included was a listing of the six U. S. Department of Agriculture agencies in the county that served farmers.

Pete didn't say so, but I suspect that he would send you a copy if you would drop him a note.

Nice Words From Mary Cheze...

Boone county home adviser Mary Cheze would nominate the Belvidere Daily Republican as one of the outstanding newspaper cooperators in Illinois.

Mary reports that in recent weeks the Daily Republican has given front-page pictorial attention to the regular meeting of the joint Extension Council and to their 4-H recognition night. The regular farm page always carries the local agricultural and home economics extension news.

1/21/60

It Says Here . . .

Columns On Marketing...

We recently had the opportunity to go over a series of seven columns on the subject of agricultural marketing. These columns were the work of the renowned columnist, Orin Hertz, of Vermilion county.

Orin had attended the May Marketing Workshop sponsored by the Department of Agricultural Economics. The material presented in the workshop encouraged him to tackle the series of columns.

In outlining some of the problems of agricultural marketing, Orin talked straight from the shoulder without pulling any punches. He said that farmers needed to improve the quality of their product if they expected to satisfy consumers. He said that farmers needed to be aware of the importance of a healthy economy if they expected to get good prices. He said that farmers needed to better understand what goes into the cost of marketing agricultural commodities.

High Praise From St. Louis...

Harold Guither and Jon Greeneisen ran onto some flattering comments about Illinois extension people while visiting St. Louis newspapers and radio-TV stations recently.

KMOX's Ted Mangner said he gets much good information from extension news releases. He tipped us off that items are most helpful when limited to a paragraph. Two or three stories to a page work best for his radio programs.

Paul Bernard of KMOX-TV had glowing reports of television work by Illinois advisers. Since October, Paul has been video-taping his daily half-hour programs at 10:30 and 12:30 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. He is anxious to receive program suggestions. If he knew when our specialists were to be in nearby counties, he would line them up for appearances. Since the show is taped at a convenient hour and he is anxious to use extension stories, Paul's show provides an exceptional opportunity for getting information to farm families.

New USDA Film Releases...

We now have the opportunity to preview all new film releases by the USDA before they are logged in the Audio Visual Aids Library. An important documentary is the 18-minute color film, "A Look at Soviet Agriculture." It is excellent for all audiences.

One of the best films we have seen in recent years is "Water for Farm and City." This 13½-minute black and white film is excellent for local civic clubs, soil conservation meetings, or general audiences.

The revised version of "A Compass for Agriculture" is much better than the 1952 version on the crop reporting services of USDA. It's good for meetings involving crop marketing discussion.

"Handling and Storing Apples in Pallet Boxes" is a specialized film for commercial apple growers. You should check with Frank Owen, fruit crops extension specialist, on use of this film.

These films should be ordered directly from Audio Visual Aids Library, 605½ E. Green Street, Champaign, Illinois.

Filmstrip Sold to 90...

We were happy to provide 90 filmstrips on "Soybeans Do Best in Narrow Rows" to Johnny Pendleton last week for distribution to 35 farm advisers and 55 vocational agriculture instructors. The big premiere of the filmstrip was before 600 farmers at the McLean County Soils and Crops Day. Sam Aldrich commented, "They got the idea without our having to talk so much."

1/28/60

It Says Here . . .

The Art of Interviewing...

Good radio interviews are built; they don't just grow. The person doing the interviewing carries most of the load of planning the direction of the interview and drawing out his guest. The guest merely follows where he's led.

Here are some suggestions for interviewers:

1. Talk over the broadcast with the person you're going to interview. Explain the specific reason for having him on your show. Tell him what you're going to ask him. Keep all your questions short. The listener wants to hear your guest--not you.

2. Don't start with biographical questions. Introduce your guest. Tell where he's from and why he's on your show. Do this as quickly as possible.

3. Begin your questions with "How, What, When, Where, and Why." The idea is to frame a question so that it can't be answered with "yes" or "no."

4. If you begin a question with "Do you?" or "Are you?" or "Is it," etc., you automatically invite a "yes or no" reply. With too many of those answers, you'll end up doing all the talking and might as well not have a guest.

5. A variation on that same theme is the statement of fact followed by the dare to disagree. "You're president of your 4-H Club--aren't you?" If he says, "No," you'll surely look like a fool.

6. Make a special effort to show your guest that you're interested in what he has to say. Look at him while he's saying it. Be a good visible audience. It'll do wonders for his confidence.

2/3/60

7. Stress the pronouns "you" and "your" in your questions. Tell your guest to talk in terms of "I" and "mine."

8. Usually, ad lib interviews are best. Jot down some notes or questions. It will help to make sure you cover the major points of the interview. Write out a short opening and close. That will help you introduce your guest quickly and bring the interview to an end easily and on time.

9. Keep your guest mentally on his farm or in his home.

How Do You Look on TV?...

Whether you're on TV regularly or just asked to appear as a guest authority, here are some pointers to help your "appearance":

1. Don't wear large or shiny tie clasps, belt buckles, etc. And a special note for you ladies: Don't wear noisy bracelets that jingle with every movement.

2. It's generally O.K. to wear eyeglasses on TV as you would anywhere else. But remember that "toying" with your glasses, pencil or other gadgets reflects nervousness.

3. Don't wear pure white clothing, especially shirts, handkerchiefs, etc., along with dark clothing. Solid, light-colored shades are best. Avoid strong-patterned plaids or other bold lines that might appear "busy" in the TV picture.

4. In general, look at the camera when you are speaking to the audience, and look at the person you are visiting with during an interview-type presentation. Don't look at the studio monitor. This tends to show the whites of your eyes.

5. Avoid extensive and unplanned movements that might create difficulties for the cameramen.

It Says Here . . .

A Vote for the Olney Daily Mail...

The following letter was received recently from Farm Adviser Glenn Ash and Assistant Adviser Art Sechrest. We think it speaks for itself:

"We noticed recently in 'It Says Here' that a certain Illinois newspaper is being called (at least in some quarters) the best 'extension paper in the state.'

"We would like to enter our small town daily, The Olney Daily Mail, in the competition. Since we've been pretty busy the past week or so, the issue we're enclosing is a little below par, but since it's the most recent one we have we'll send it along.

"We've circled in red all the articles which can be attributed to the Extension Service. You'll notice a feature story (with extension by-line) on the front page, two releases from the 4-H office on the farm page, columns by the farm adviser and assistant farm adviser, six releases from your office, one release from the Department of Agriculture, and a picture taken by the assistant farm adviser on the county extension staff's own Minolta Autocord. Incidentally, the picture was processed in the assistant farm adviser's darkroom, the home of bigger and better extension photographs. The poor reproduction wasn't due to the picture quality, but can be traced to a banged-up old scanagraver."

Looking Ahead to the Fair...

The Decatur Sunday Herald and Review recently carried an interesting full-page picture spread on 4-H Club work. They selected youngsters who had been county 4-H winners in last year's fair and showed them grooming their projects for the fair in 1960. Such picture treatment reminds readers that there is a lot more to 4-H Club work than parading a prize animal in the show ring.

Packet Enclosures...

Included in this week's packet is a copy of publication PA-398, "Bulletin Display Racks for Extension Workers."

This publication, which was prepared by the Federal Extension Service, includes a host of ideas on permanent and portable bulletin display setups.

Volume 6, No. 4, of the Citizens Committee Newsletter is included in this week's packet. This newsletter is sent to you at the request of President Henry to keep you informed on the work of the Citizens Committee.

By Separate Mail...

Farm advisers, home advisers and assistant advisers will each soon receive a copy of the long-awaited publication, "Exhibits and Displays for Agricultural Workers." A copy is also being sent to each person who attended the recent exhibit workshops.

John Behrens reports that quantity supplies of this publication will not be available for distribution. But reprints of similar articles may be purchased from the NATIONAL 4-H CLUB NEWS in the near future.

Reading Rowand for a Dollar...

Ford county's Arnold Rowand often wondered how many people read his regular column. The other day he decided to find out. But in typical Rowand fashion he thought it only fair that his readers should pay for the privilege of answering his survey. So he asked any reader of his column to answer the roll by sending a dollar to support the county IFYE program.

Arnold reports that, much to his surprise, he already has $69 worth of readers.

2-10-60

It Says Here . . .

The Effectiveness of a Campaign...

In 1956 former staff editor Larry Sarbaugh carried out a research project designed to measure the effectiveness of an information campaign. Larry, who is now in charge of research for the USDA Office of Information, recently submitted a final report on his study. We thought you would be interested in his summary:

"An educational campaign was developed during 1956 to increase soil testing in Bond County, Illinois. The campaign was based on findings from a previous inventory of audience adoption of, knowledge of and attitudes about soil testing.

"Following the campaign, a readership study was conducted with a random sample of farm residents. This was to learn the extent of audience contact with the campaign materials.

"To get a measure of the impact of the campaign, county soil test records were analyzed to determine the increase in soil testing, if any, following the campaign.

"About 3/5 of the respondents had read at least part of the soil test stories appearing in the local newspapers; and nearly 3/4 had seen the pictures accompanying the stories.

"Readership of pictures was about 50 percent higher than readership of the stories.

"Readership of soil test stories and other farm stories was as high as other materials in the local newspapers.

"More than 2/5 of the respondents had seen at least one of the exhibits on soil testing.

"More than 2/5 had seen and read at least part of the envelope stuffer promoting soil testing.

"More farmers tested soil during the month following the campaign than during any previous month in Bond County. Although some factors other than the campaign may have been responsible for part of the increase, the data seem to indicate that the campaign resulted in increased soil testing during the fall of 1956."

2/18/60

4-H Mat Order Delayed...

For some unexplained reason, our original group order of 4-H mats from the National 4-H Committee was lost in the mail. A second order should reach us by February 18, and we hope to get your orders in the mail by the 19th. We and the National Committee regret the mix-up.

Well Worth Reading...

The January and February issues of BETTER FARMING METHODS carry some articles on communications that are well worth reading. We especially liked the Pennsylvania report on radio on page 28 of the January issue; "Seeing Is Believing," on page 28 of the February issue; and the article on better pictures, which appears on page 40 of that issue. You will also want to note the item on "Window Shade Visuals," which appears on page 72.

Farm and Home Festival Promotion...

A special packet of Farm and Home Festival promotion material is in the works. We hope to get it in the mail late next week.

We're always on the lookout for Festival promotion ideas to help you people in the counties. If you have such ideas, send them to us.

It Says Here . . .

'What Should County Agents Know?"...

Some of you may have seen the thought-provoking article by the above title in the January issue of the Extension Service Review.

This article, by Bob McCormick, tells how 240 Ohio county agents rated their needs for more in-service training.

We thought it would be interesting to look at the problem from a little different point of view. Could we stir up some discussion on the kind of college training farm and home advisers should have? If we can get some arguments started, so much the better, so give us permission to quote you.

At the bottom of the page, we have left room for quick answers to two questions. We hope you will take a few minutes to give us your answers. Here are the questions:

1. What training (specific courses, if possible) did you have in college that has proved most helpful to you as an adviser?

2. Knowing what you do now about your job, what training would you have liked to receive in college that you did not receive? (Again, list specific courses, if possible.)

Have Pic, Should Use!...

If you haven't already seen this story illustrating the power of photos, take heed. It was reported by the USDA and also in County Agent and Vo-Ag Teacher.

For some months, Rex Conn, farm editor of the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette, ran his column sans pic. During that time the Gazette conducted a readership survey. Then he began using his picture as part of the column head. The next survey, made a few months later, showed that readership of Conn's column had doubled.

Promoting Your Festival...

We were talking with an adviser the other day about Festival promotion. He pointed out that he was promoting the Festival for all he was worth, because "I believe it will help my program more than anyone else."

Your promotion of the Festival is another way to remind your county people that you are a staff member of the University of Illinois. (You might be surprised at how many people don't know that.)

At the same time, people are more likely to accept and apply your recommendations when they know more about the research program that supports those recommendations.

- - - -

It Says Here . . .

Photos Promote Extension...

"Get the Most Out of Each Photo" is a working slogan here in our photographic shop. This week we learned that White county's Emil Mosser has adopted it. He took the 11 x 14 enlargements he won in the "Extension in Action" contest last year and made a touring exhibit of them. Appropriate photo titles enabled Emil to convey an extension message of service to the county. Some of the pictures are also used in a 4-H exhibit. Extra mileage like this out of each photo makes photography a more economical extension tool.

"Nuclear Radiation Fall-Out Facts"...

This slide set, shown to you during the January District Conferences, should return from Eastman Kodak this week. Then we can distribute it to county staffs. If you would like to schedule it, return the order form below.

Two available Civil Defense movies are (1) "Rural Community Defense" and (2) "The Invisible Enemy." Note: Order the second movie from the Illinois Civil Defense Agency, 57th and South Shore Drive, Chicago 37, Illinois.

Both movies would be valuable for Civil Defense meetings.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

I want the "Nuclear Radiation Fall-Out Facts" slides.

Date (1st choice)_____

(2nd choice)_____

(3rd choice)_____

Name_____

Address_____

Garden Packet On Its Way...

Both farm and home advisers should soon receive copies of the 1960 Spring Lawn and Garden Packet. We've already sent copies to all Illinois daily newspapers and to 30 of the larger weeklies in the state. But we thought you might like a copy for your own use.

"Exclusive to Advisers" Masthead...

If all goes well, farm advisers should receive in this week's packet a fill-in story carrying the brand new "Exclusive to Advisers" masthead. We will use this mast for stories exclusive to home advisers as well as to farm advisers. To designate for whom the story is intended, we will simply type above the slug line "For Farm Advisers" or "For Home Advisers."

Festival Posters Coming...

Each farm adviser should soon receive seven copies of the Farm and Home Festival poster. These posters are intended for use by the entire county staff. The College will certainly appreciate your placing them in strategic locations around the county.

Both farm and home advisers will soon each receive 10 copies of the advance Festival program.

Post Card, Anyone?...

You'll notice a small blue post card tucked away in this week's packet. The College has sent one of these cards to each person who attended last year's Festival. We are sending a copy to you, thinking that you might want to adapt it to your own uses. If you would like to use this same card, however, the College has an extra 2,000 copies. We'll send them to you on a first-come first-served basis.

3-3-60

It Says Here . . .

Extra Festival Posters...

After distributing Festival posters to county staffs, vo-ag teachers and other outlets, we still have some extra posters left. If any counties would like to have a few more, let us know.

Overhead Projectors Have Advantages...

County staffs planning to buy visual equipment should consider advantages of the overhead projector. This type of projector enables the speaker to continue facing his audience in a lighted room. No darkening facilities are needed, and the speaker need not turn his back to the audience.

Another advantage is called "identity with the user." The audience sees the picture from the same viewpoint as the communicator and also sees him in action. The projector is flexible and versatile and makes projection more personalized.

Many materials, ranging from homemade types to mass-produced visuals, are adaptable to the overhead projector.

Our office will have instructional materials available on the overhead projector later this year. Meanwhile, check with John Behrens for information on models, prices and materials.

Food Merchandising Film...

Rock Island county's Jack Mullen has just booked the new 15-1/2 minute color motion picture called "Building Food Sales Through Better Merchandising."

This is a filmed report of USDA merchandising studies in supermarkets. It will be shown to a local extension meeting.

Agricultural economics specialist George England reports that the film is good for producer and marketing groups interested in promoting improved merchandising methods. To book the film, write directly to the Motion Picture Service, Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

Education for Extension...

Recently we invited you to give us your views on the college courses that had helped you most in your job and the college courses that you wished you had taken. So far we have heard from more than 60 of you, with the count about evenly divided between men and women.

Most of you listed various subject-matter courses as ones that had helped you most. We were also interested in what you had to say about the courses you wished you had taken. Here is a sample of replies. (We will send you a complete report when all replies are in.)

E. E. Golden--Public relations, extension administration, office organization, human behavior, radio and writing, visual aids, public affairs.

Natalie Wiggers--Journalism, radio-TV, handicraft, more psychology, home furnishings, housing, how to teach.

Charles Glover--Program planning, public speaking.

Sue Ann Elston--Philosophy and history of Extension, office management, radio-TV, news writing.

Paul Wilson--Journalism, advanced farm management, advanced agronomy and soils.

Barbara Forgy--More in-service training such as future teachers receive.

Darl Fike--Skills in leadership similar to a Dale Carnegie course.

Mabel Albrecht--Extension organization, humanities, journalism, public speaking, radio-TV.

Willard Lighty--Photography, journalism, public relations.

Carolyn Stevens--Office procedures and management.

Earl Bantz--Extension administration, sociology, journalism, farm management, landscaping.

Manesa Wright--Writing, visual aids, public speaking, understanding people, counseling, recreation.

3-10-60

It Says Here . . .

New Ag Chiefs and Indians...

Due to prompting from several farm advisers, we have prepared the first supplement to "For Better Introductions." This supplementary edition contains short biographical sketches of agricultural extension specialists and administrators who have joined the staff since we released the original edition in September, 1958. Farm advisers should receive this supplement within the next week.

Our home economics editor is busy preparing a similar supplement on new home ec staffers.

Festival Details...

The soon-to-be-released Progress Report No. 3 on the Farm and Home Festival contains last-minute details, including a complete run-down of the speaking program. As you may know, several outstanding speakers will discuss items of current major interest.

This progress report should arrive on your desk by the first of the week.

Press Headquarters...

Once again our staff will set up Festival press headquarters in the Visual Aids Shop. The shop is located next to the Ag Engineering building.

You may want to notify your editors of our whereabouts so that they can stop by for pictures, news stories or a cup of coffee.

We Tip Our Hat...

This week we tip our hat to the following newspapers for the excellent coverage they have given National 4-H Week:

Pike County Democrat Times, Pittsfield.
Norris City News, White county.
Perry County Advocate, Pinckneyville.
Robinson Daily News, Crawford county.
Belvidere Republican, Boone, county.

By the way, this paper donated 45 extra copies to 4-H leaders.

We would also like to make special mention of the excellent photo reproduction in the Perry County Advocate.

End Extension In Action Photo Program...

Because of the lack of interest in the "Extension In Action" Photo Award program during the past three months, we have decided to terminate it. We are indeed thankful for the loyal co-sponsorship of PRAIRIE FARMER during the past three years. Whenever appropriate, we hope you will continue to use photography as a communication tool in your local extension program.

New Filmstrip and Book...

A new Foreign Agricultural Service filmstrip and book features (1) charts that point out the top markets for dollars, (2) the kind of trade we like best, and (3) the areas where foreign currency and aid are important factors.

Counties studying the export market would find this film and book useful, says agricultural economist Larry Simerl.

You can order this black and white filmstrip from the Photo Laboratory, Inc., 3825 Georgia Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. It costs $2.00.

Order the book entitled "Foreign Agricultural Trade Outlook Charts, 1960," from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The book costs 35 cents a copy.

3-17-60

It Says Here . . .

Prairie Farmer Likes Local Pictures...

Managing Editor Jim Thomson reminds us that he is always on the lookout for sharp, story-telling pictures of county extension activities. He especially liked the one from Emil Mosser, White county, which he used on page 75 of the March 5 issue. Emil pictorially reported on Beef Cattle Day at Dixon Springs.

We would suggest that you keep Prairie Farmer in mind the next time you put your camera in the car to visit a farm, take part in a tour or attend a meeting. Jim might even like to have a shot or two of some of your local farmers looking at one of the exhibits or displays in your office.

As a common courtesy, don't send Jim the same picture that has received wide usage in your local papers. If you use the same subjects, use a different composition. Make sure your cutlines correctly identify the people and give whatever additional information is necessary. Send to Jim Thomson, managing editor, PRAIRIE FARMER, 1230 Washington Blvd., Chicago 7, Illinois.

Planning To Borrow Festival Exhibits?...

Each year a number of you ask about borrowing Festival exhibits for use at local fairs. We have not always been able to meet your requests but would like to do better this year. Our suggestions:

When you visit the Festival, keep in mind the suitability of the various exhibits for local use. Some will be built around special specimens or equipment that is not available off-campus.

As soon as possible after the Festival, write to Visual Specialist John Behrens and tell him what exhibit panels you would like and when you need them. He will then check on availability and confirm the dates with you. You will need to furnish suitable transportation.

3-24-60

Excellent 4-H Coverage...

This week we salute the Hancock County Journal, the Wayne County Record and the Wayne County Press for their excellent coverage of National 4-H Week.

Incidentally, Wayne County Farm Adviser Fred Holhubner sends word that he is using the Civil Defense slide set. He reports that the set has worked satisfactorily for meetings of both older youths and adults.

Keeping Up With Publications...

Sometime ago Stephenson county's Bob Wack wrote to us about the need for a better system of keeping advisers informed on available printed, mimeograph, and multilith reference materials. Bob pointed out that the College releases once or twice a year a leaflet called "Publications, Agriculture and Home Economics." This leaflet lists nearly all of the printed bulletins, circulars, and leaflets that all the departments publish within a year's time. But it does not include departmental mimeograph and multilith references.

So Bob has asked our office if there is any way we might keep farm and home advisers better informed of available publications.

We are kicking around a few ideas but haven't yet come up with anything concrete. As you can appreciate, it's not an easy problem to solve.

In the meantime, we are wondering if you advisers have any comments about the problem or how we might solve it. We would appreciate hearing from you.

Once More For Good Measure...

If you haven't already done this and you know your local editors well, why not pick up the phone right now and give them a special personal invitation to the Festival? Well, why not?

It Says Here . . .

The Farmer On Main Street...

Last week we mentioned the loss of Capper's Farmer and other voices of agriculture. We suggested that perhaps more frequent expressions of appreciation and need by all of us could have saved some of these voices. Perhaps we should also suggest that your local newspapers and radio stations need some facts about the importance of agriculture to the merchants on Main Street.

A couple of weeks ago, Leo Sharp asked us to attend a dinner meeting for his editors in Fulton county. During the after-dinner discussion, we quoted some figures we had picked up a few years ago in Macon county. We were making the point that the average commercial farmer is a "big purchaser," and his purchases are important to the economic well-being of a community.

Our figures were for 1957, and they showed that during that year a farmer on a typical 250-acre farm would have spent $3,000 for new machinery, nearly $2,000 for fertilizer, another $1,000 for feeds, and another $1,000 for machinery repairs. At the same time, he would have bought more than $800 worth of seeds and more than $700 worth of gasoline and oil. When you multiply these figures by the number of farms in the county, the importance of agriculture takes on real meaning. And all of this is in addition to the farmer's purchases of consumer goods--new cars, stoves, refrigerators, clothing, TV sets and newspaper subscriptions.

The editors immediately wanted to get current similar figures for the Fulton county area, and Leo promised to help them. We've checked with Al Mueller, and he reports that the Farm Bureau Farm Management fieldmen can help each of you work up similar information for your area. We think your local newspapers and radio stations would like to have it.

Information Committee Meets...

During the Festival, several of us met with the Information Committee of the Farm Advisers Association. This committee is chairmanned by Macon county's Warren Myers and has two primary functions. Its first job is to work for the improvement of the internal and external communications of the association and its members. It also serves as an advisory committee to the Extension Editorial Office.

The committee is currently considering the advantages of preparing an association "publication" which, among other things, would include the association's constitution, a review of its administrative structure and its objectives, a listing of the officers and committee members, and brief biographical sketches of each association member.

Warren asked Advisers Robert Long and Gerald Payne to serve with him as a subcommittee to determine the membership interest in such a publication and the possible procedures for getting it produced if there is interest. If you have any thoughts on this subject, you might want to get in touch with Warren. Our office has offered to help with such a publication if the membership wants it.

We also announced that Patricia Close, of our staff, has been asked to serve as "County Services Editor" in addition to her other press section responsibility. Pat will take the leadership in improving our editorial services for farm advisers. She will also work with Janice Woodard and Jessie Heathman on new services for home advisers.

In reviewing the needs for new services, Pat will work closely with the association's information committee. So if you have suggestions on ways our office can be of more help to you, make sure your ideas get to the committee member representing your district.

4-7-60

It Says Here ...

For Better Identification...

Chuck Flynn, the University's director of public information, suggested the other day that farm and home advisers and the University would mutually benefit if more effort were made to make sure the public knew our advisers were staff members of the University of Illinois.

We plan to do a better job of such identification in the "exclusives" we send to you for local release.

Another excellent place for proper identification with the University is in your column headings. Usually the column heading gives the name of the adviser and identifies him or her as farm or home adviser in such a county. It would help a great deal if the University of Illinois could be incorporated in the heading. It might read like this:

ROGERS' RAMBLINGS

By Leslie Rogers
University of Illinois
Perry County Farm Adviser

If any of you are using such identification now in your column headings, would you send us a clipping to pass along to Chuck.

Here's What You Said About Training...

In this week's packet you will find the replies from 84 of you who answered our question about the kinds of college courses you wished you had received while in college.

We are also sending the summary to all extension workers here on the state staff.

Thanks for giving us your views. They will help in planning programs of study for future extension workers.

Ogle County Editors Meet...

The Ogle county extension staff, under the leadership of Farm Adviser Fulkerson and Home Adviser Barnes, had a most worthwhile dinner meeting with their county newspaper editors on Thursday evening, April 7. Jessie Heathman and I represented the editorial office.

After a "no speeches" dinner, the group moved to the county extension offices, where the editors were given a thorough review of the county program. The work of the extension councils was also discussed, and the working relationships between the Extension Service and the various farm organizations and commodity groups were explained.

Without exception, the editors expressed satisfaction with the county extension news services.

Agronomy News...

Extension soils specialist Lloyd McKenzie would appreciate receiving the names of farmers in your counties who would like to receive the Agronomy News. Send the names directly to McKenzie at 262 Davenport Hall, Urbana.

We Salute...

This week we salute (1) the Lewistown News for its good farm news section and (2) the Newton Press-Mentor for its excellent coverage of the Jasper county youth who won the "4-H X-Tra Yield" corn contest.

April Wall Chart...

Farm advisers will find another copy of the April wall chart on "Corn Insects" enclosed with this week's packet. We had extra copies, so thought you might like to have another one.

4/14/60

It Says Here . . .

A Critique of the Festival...

By the time you read this, the 1960 Farm and Home Festival will be history. It was the product of countless hours of work by staff members and students of the College of Agriculture. It also represented an investment of a fair amount of money. And it was widely publicized as an event well worth attending. Was it?

So far as we know, there are no plans this year for a complete evaluation of the Festival. But we know that all of those who share in the many decisions regarding future Festivals would welcome your appraisal of this year's efforts. They would like to have not only your comments, but the comments of the farm and city people in your county who attended.

The primary purpose of the Festival is to provide the "opportunity" for the citizens of the state to become better acquainted with the staff, the research, the facilities, and the services of the College of Agriculture. It is not the primary intent of this event to "teach" in the sense that we think of teaching through our day-to-day extension activities. Those attending, however, should find much information that is interesting and useful on the farm and in the home.

In your judgment, does the Festival accomplish its purpose? Is there a better way to do the job?

New Film Report Format...

Please note the enclosed film report. It has been designed to meet your needs for an up-to-date file on films and slide sets you can use in your work. Have your secretary start a film report file now for your office. The 3 x 5 blocks are for cutting out and filing in a 3 x 5 card file for easy reference. A suggested coding system will be sent your way in a few weeks.

Teaching By Television...

The February issue of the Extension Service Review carries an intriguing article from Indiana on teaching by television. It's on page 37 if you haven't read it.

Home management specialist Anna K. Williams reports a comparison between the results of a face-to-face workshop on money management and a TV workshop on the same subject. In a nutshell, the TV workshop attracted more than 10 times as many actual "participants" as the face-to-face method. Those who participated learnned more on TV and the cost per participant in terms of the specialist time was less than a third of the face-to-face approach.

A Voice Is Lost...

Many of you may have heard that Capper's Farmer has ceased publication with the April issue. It has simply gone out of business, and subscribers will be given a choice of a number of other magazines.

It should be of serious concern to everyone in agriculture that another voice of and for the farmer has been lost. The voice of Country Gentleman was lost only a few years ago.

On a smaller scale perhaps, but no less important in total impact, is the loss of the smaller "voices" on our local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations. The number of full-time farm editors on daily newspapers has dropped sharply in recent years. The situation is even more evident in the radio field.

Might not many of these voices be speaking today if all of us in agriculture had expressed our appreciation and shown our need for the services being performed? What can we expect in the future?

3-31-60

It Says Here . . .

Radio Schedule for NHW...

As home advisers know, National Home Demonstration Week is slated for May 1-7. During this week, several nationwide broadcasts will be made from Washington concerning homemaking and farming. In case you haven't received a notice, here are the scheduled programs:

1. National Farm and Home Hour. NBC network, Saturday, April 30. "A Salute to American Homemakers" by Under-Secretary True D. Morse.
2. American Farmer. ABC network, April 30. Mrs. Helen Turner and Dr. Jack Claar discuss "Better Farming and Better Homemaking."
3. Claude Mahoney's Farm Report. Mutual network. Miss Heywood and Ed Pope present "Accenting Values in Family Living."
4. Agriculture U.S.A. To be broadcast on clear channel stations. Loretta Cowden and G. H. Huffman discuss "Meeting the Challenge of Modern Homemaking."

Check your local papers for exact dates and times for the last two programs. Home advisers may wish to notify families in their communities of these programs.

Bride's Packet...

Home advisers will discover that the News For Women this week features a special Bride's Packet. This packet is chock-full of information and was prepared especially for the approaching "bridal season." Young brides as well as settled homemakers will find the information useful.

Scott County Reaches Georgia...

Scott county adviser Dale Hewitt writes that he recently received a letter from an Atlanta, Georgia, resident. This fellow requested information on liquid and dry fertilizers and the amount of fertility that certain crops remove from the soil. Dale didn't mention how this fellow learned about him. But he did say that he believes this "emphasizes the far-reaching effect of extension through communications."

What Are Your Problems?...

This may be a loaded question, but Pat Close of our staff would like to know. As you remember, we announced last week that Pat is taking the leadership in improving our services to farm advisers. But just like a doctor, Pat can't prescribe any cures until she knows what the ailments are. So if you are running into problems, or have suggestions for how we can improve our services to you, jot them down and send them along to Pat. Later this spring she plans to visit several counties to get better acquainted with problems facing advisers.

News Stories Are Simple...

Whether you think so or not, a news story is the easiest kind of writing there is to do. A news story is easier to write than a speech, a sermon, a letter or an essay. It's easy because it means just doing what comes naturally.

If you have some information you want to get to your farmers or your homemakers, write that information in one sentence. That is the start of your news story. Now write a second sentence and tell them why the first one is important. Next fill in the details with the facts and figures that should go into the story. That's all there is to it, and it didn't take you four years in college to find it out.

The best way to brush up on news writing is to read the papers--twice. Read tonight's paper first to find out the news, and read it a second time to see how it is written.

4-21/60

It Says Here . . .

Pacifying Both Sides...

In our news stories that announce new publications, we sometimes suggest that readers can get a copy by writing directly to the University of Illinois. On the other hand, we often suggest that readers pick up a copy from their farm adviser.

It seems, however, that farm advisers have varying opinions on this matter. Some have flatly said that they don't like to handle such requests. Others think it's a real good chance for them to meet and serve more people, especially suburban residents.

So now we are trying to satisfy both sides. We are releasing a news story this week that announces the new Condensed Vegetable Insecticide Recommendations. At the tail-end we mentioned that readers can pick up a copy from their county farm adviser, or they could write directly to the Illinois Natural History Survey. Since this publication is bound to attract attention, we thought you might like this advance warning so you can order some extra copies.

Big Discount On Revere 35 mm Projector...

During the past week we have received several inquiries from state and county staff on the Revere 888 Automatic 35 mm projector now being offered in Wards Summer Sale catalog for $88.95. This is $60 under standard retail price. Our experience has been that this is an excellent projector except for one major fault, that of recycling very slowly between slides. It is the slowest automatic projector we know of in this respect.

Relationships With U. of I....

Several weeks ago we passed along the suggestion from Chuck Flynn that farm and home advisers and the University would benefit if column headings identified the relationship of the adviser to the University.

We are pleased that a number of you have taken the time and trouble to send us clippings or tear sheets of your columns showing how you have included "University of Illinois" in your headings.

So far, we have heard from Herb Short, John McCue, Charles Glover, Ed Bay, Verna Landis, Louise Moody, and Paul Wilson. We are sending these tear sheets and clippings over to Chuck with the suggestion that he may want to pass them on to President Henry. If others of you are now putting "University of Illinois" in your column headings, we would like to see how the papers are using them.

Mullen Mentions Merchandising Film...

Had a note recently from Rock Island County Farm Adviser Jack Mullen who wrote:

"The USDA film, 'Building Food Sales Through Better Merchandising,' is an excellent 15-minute presentation for marketing groups and would be of excellent training value for food store sales managers and other personnel. We showed it to our joint extension councils and the families of members and got wonderful response. We also cooperated with Ken Reusch, Manager of National Tea Stores in Northern Iowa and Northern Illinois, in a presentation before two training sessions for sales managers. These people were enthusiastic about it."

Prints of this film are not available at the University. If you would like to use it, write directly to James Alford, Acting Chief of Distribution, Motion Picture Service, Office of Information, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

4-28-60

It Says Here . . .

A Look At Soviet Agriculture...

A flyer in this week's packet announces a new USDA film titled "A Look at Soviet Agriculture." Photography editor Jack Everly previewed the film recently and was of the opinion that it would be of interest to a general audience. The film can be obtained from the University's Audio Visual Aids Center, 605½ East Green Street, Champaign, Illinois. As with other USDA films, you do not have to pay a rental charge for the film, but you do pay the small postage and handling charge.

Sears and Wards' Photo Catalogs...

If you are a photo enthusiast--and we hope you are--you may want to get a copy of the new photo catalogs just released by Sears-Roebuck & Co. and Montgomery Ward & Co. The catalog departments of your local stores should be able to get you a copy, or you can write directly to the respective companies.

Sears-Roebuck Camera Catalog with Photographic Reference Guide, Sears-Roebuck & Co., 925 So. Homan Avenue, Chicago 7, Illinois.

Montgomery Ward 1960 Photographic Catalog, Montgomery Ward & Co., 618 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago 7, Illinois.

Guide Sheet for 4-H Reporters...

Bob Schmerbauch, Perry county youth adviser, has come up with a good idea to help 4-H Club reporters write better items for local newspapers.

It's a guide sheet listing the questions 4-H reporters should try to answer in a story about 4-H Club meetings.

Bob worked out the guide with three county newspapers. He says they're all pleased with the results. Write to Bob if you would like a copy.

5/5/60

Mailings To Farm Advisers...

From time to time we have been concerned with what seems to be a tremendous amount of mail flowing into your offices every week.

Last month we asked Editor Pat Close to work with the mailing room in making a small study of the number of mailings the College sent to farm advisers during a three-week period. Here's what she found out:

Week	No. of Mailings	No. of Items
April 4-8	12	35
April 11-16	7	17
April 8-22	12	29
April 4-22 (Individual mailings)	14	14
Totals	46	95

Pat reports that the number of items mailed is somewhat misleading, since five or ten copies of one item were often enclosed. Therefore, the total number of items mailed could easily be 200 or more.

Originally we had thought it might be possible to work out a system of grouping these mailings and including a "content" sheet that would tell you what was in the packet. After looking at the volume, though, we are not so sure that the present system should be tampered with. Any suggestions?

A New Weekly Newspaper...

Logan county farm adviser Harold Brinkmeier sent us a copy of a new county weekly newspaper, "THE LINCOLN GRAPHIC." It is an attractive effort printed on offset and making effective use of photographs.

It Says Here . . .

To Better Serve You...

Home economics press editor Janice Woodard is in Winnebago County today (Wednesday) conferring with Home Adviser Alfretta Dickinson on county information problems.

This is the first stop of a 10-county visit schedule Janice has worked out in her program of becoming better acquainted with the information needs in the field.

Between now and June 7, she will complete her schedule in the following counties: Grundy, Hancock, Peoria, Christian, Pope-Hardin, Randolph, Clay, Lawrence and Coles. Our thanks to the home advisers in those counties for giving Janice and our office the benefit of their experiences.

County services editor Pat Close is also in the field this week making calls on Farm Advisers Joe Faggetti in Mason County and W. A. Bouslog in Tazewell. Joe is interested in doing a readership survey of the farm page in the local paper.

Back To The Pony Express...

The problem of slow mail delivery is a frustrating one. Crawford County's Boyd Lahr keeps us posted on the slow post. Recently a franked letter from the College found its way to him 12 days later. A franked letter from Decatur made the trip to him in two days.

Boyd wondered if a solution to the franked mail problem might be to truck the College's mail to Decatur and post it from there. We suspect that if Decatur got the same volume of franked mail that is dropped in the Urbana chutes, Decatur would route the stuff through Chicago too.

We will do some more checking with the post office here with the hope of finding a better solution.

"New Uses For Farm Products"...

The USDA has produced an excellent new 20-minute motion picture called "New Uses for Farm Products." This black-and-white film reviews the significant efforts of USDA scientists in their constant search for better ways to use the products from the farm. Many of the scenes were shot at the Utilization and Research Laboratory in Peoria. The film is cleared for TV use, and it would be of interest to general audiences. Prints can be ordered through the University's Audio Visual Aids Service, 605½ East Green Street, Champaign.

Improving Human Relations...

Credit for the following 10 suggestions on improving human relations should go to H. T. Rosenberger, who listed them first in the publication Personnel Management. We saw them in Minnesota's editorial letter to extension workers.

1. Try to like people and take an interest in them without delving into their personal affairs.
2. Remember people's names and call them by their names.
3. Be approachable, but don't try to be a psychiatrist.
4. Suggest, ask questions, give instructions rather than curt, routine orders.
5. Avoid arguments.
6. Be objective without being blunt.
7. Win, not compel, cooperation. Use persuasion rather than authority.
8. Explain the reason why.
9. Commend when commendation is due, and make people feel important.
10. Set reasonable standards, and make it clear that they must be met.

5-12-60

It Says Here . . .

Appreciation From President Henry...

You may wonder whether your efforts are ever appreciated in the higher echelons of the University. All of your good work perhaps isn't, but some of it is.

In a recent note to Dean Howard regarding the cooperation of the College of Agriculture in the over-all University public information program, President Henry wrote:

"The latest example is the encouragement of the Farm and Home Advisers to identify themselves with the University of Illinois and the tangible results which this suggestion produced. Mr. Flynn has brought the clippings to my attention and I am so impressed with them that I am prompted to send this note."

It's Wise To Localize...

A couple of weeks ago, you received a copy of a release from Larry Miller of Agronomy regarding some of the dangers of a continuous corn system. This release was sent to all daily newspapers.

The Decatur Herald and Review wanted to use the story with a local twist, so the farm writer shot a picture of friend Warren Myers using a yardstick to measure the length of legume roots. The two-column photo was used as the attention getter for the two-column story.

Modest Warren didn't report whether the idea was his or the paper's. We will find out today (Wednesday) when we are in Decatur to meet with Warren and his editor.

Most stories from the College can be localized by relating the information to the situation in the county.

Publicizing Extension Councils...

During her field visits last week editor Pat Close came back with identical suggestions from Joe Faggetti and Nye Bouslog. Both fellows urged that we come up with some ideas and some help on getting the public better acquainted with the membership and work of the Extension Councils. This we plan to do.

Again this year we will shoot pictures of your council representatives attending the conference on campus in June.

Also, before the end of June, Pat hopes to send you a special packet with suggested stories and other ideas for letting people know about your council activities. If you have suggestions, let us have them and we will pass them along to others.

On the same visit, Pat and Joe worked out the details for a post card survey to determine interest in and readership of the weekly extension farm page in the local newspaper.

Home Demonstration Week Featured

Our thanks to Piatt County's Lorennie Berry for sending us samples of the outstanding coverage of National Home Demonstration Week carried in the Piatt County Journal.

The May 5 issue carried two major stories and five pictures reviewing the home economics extension program in the county.

FFA Convention Coverage...

Again this year an editorial crew will help with the press-radio-TV coverage of the State FFA Convention in Springfield June 7-9. Pat Close, Rollie Henkes, Glen Broom, and Ben Coplan will do the honors. Glen and Ben are student assistants in the office.

5/10/60

It Says Here . . .

Local Story Ideas...

In case you have spring fever and can't come up with local story ideas, consider these three from the press section:

1. Planting: Write a story about a farmer who has used some unusual planting method this spring. He may have used minimum tillage or planted narrow-row soybeans. Or he may have developed some ingenious gadget for his planter.
2. Early Lambs: You may know a sheep producer who has already marketed a load of early lambs, or who plans to market them in the next week or so. The management practices this sheepman followed would make a good story.
3. Creep-feeding: There's probably at least one farmer in your county who is creep-feeding his beef calves. A story on why this farmer likes to creep-feed, and the ration he uses, will interest other beef producers in your county.

One last suggestion--don't forget your camera when you go looking for these stories.

Photography Training Aids...

Eastman Kodak has issued a valuable reference book containing all of the "Kodak School and Club Services" available for 4-H photography or other meetings in the county. It contains information on how to order 16 mm. films, slides, and slides with audio tape for club meetings and other uses.

We find it a valuable reference book, and we think you would too. If you would like to have a copy for the county, fill in the coupon below and send it to us by June 3. We will forward it to Eastman Kodak for direct mailing to you.

Please send me one copy of Kodak School and Club Services booklet.

Name _____

Position _____

Address _____

Lists Office Hour in Column...

No doubt many advisers are often out of their offices when farmers or other visitors drop in. Tazewell County Farm Adviser W. A. Bouslog seems to have licked the problem by listing his office hours for the upcoming week in his personal column. Allen reports that the system works real well.

Well, It's About Time...

Last week we joined Macon county's affable Warren Myers in a conference with the editors of the Decatur Herald and Review. We also stopped by for a chat with the editor of a weekly newspaper. In between times, we gave Warren a hard time for not having a regular news service and not writing a personal column.

We now have for future historical reference the first issue of the regular weekly column and news service that Warren plans to write in Macon county. It's about time.

In fairness, though, we should mention that Warren had such a column and service before he came to Macon county.

What Are Your Story Needs?...

As long as you are sending back the coupon for the Kodak booklet, why not give us a list of stories you would like to have us write during the next month or two as "exclusives" for you? We can't promise to get them all written, but we will do our best. Just list them below.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

5/25/60

It Says Here . . .

or A Better News Service...

When Macon County's Warren Myers sent s a copy of his new news service, in-luding his personal column, we took the iberty of sending him a few comments bout it. Here's what we said:

"Column Content: We like the personal tems about people, and that's what a olumn should be. Keep the items short--he shorter, the better. If an item runs ore than half a typewritten page, make t into a separate news story for your ews service. Separate the items in our column with ****** or ###### or ome other physical print symbol. Sug-est that the editor might want to set ome of the short items in bold-face ype to give further physical variety.

"News Stories: Localize them. Local-ze them. Localize them. You can make he stories twice as valuable if you re-ate them to Macon County. If they on't relate to Macon County, they houldn't be used anyway. Include your ame as 'source.' Here's how, using the ensus story as an example:

> If Macon County follows the pat-tern of the rest of the country, there are not enough farm boys going to college.
>
> University of Illinois Farm Advis-er Warren Myers reports that farm youth fall behind their city cousins in plans to attend college. He says the report comes from the Bureau of the Census (and so on for the rest of the story).

"Here's another example using the lamb eaning story:

> Macon County has some mighty good pastures, but they may not be good enough to guarantee good lamb gains.
>
> Farm Adviser Warren Myers says... etc."

Tribute To Mrs. Zilly....

Hugh Ross, Jo Daviess County Farm Ad-viser, recently paid tribute in his column to Mrs. Dorothy Zilly. Mrs. Zilly is editor of the Elizabeth News and had won first place honors from the American Dairy Association for her editorial sup-port of the dairy industry.

Hugh wrote: "I think all the farm folks, especially the dairymen, owe a word of thanks to Mrs. Zilly...at a time when often we get unfavorable publicity about farming in our papers."

Recruitment For Agriculture...

As all of you know, enrollment in our colleges of agriculture is leveling off. This is true even though two facts stand out like beacons on a dark night: (1) The total of agriculture is getting big-ger and bigger and the need for trained agriculturalists is increasing, and (2) the opportunity for farm boys without a college education to stay on the farm is getting smaller and smaller.

This does not necessarily mean that all farm boys should go to college or that all farm boys should study agricul-ture. But it does mean that it is a tragic waste of human resources when a boy with intelligence, talent, and ambi-tion fails to go to college because of lack of guidance or direction. There must be hundreds of such farm boys in Illinois right now.

If each farm adviser in the state would accept the challenge of (1) find-ing such a qualified boy who is not planning to attend college and (2) en-couraging him to send in an enrollment application, agriculture would be much better off in the years ahead.

6/2/60

It Says Here . . .

Thanks For Suggestions...

A number of you returned suggestions for stories that you want written. Please accept our thanks, and keep them coming. Here are some we received:

Homemakers' camps, crops for late planting, conference for extension council members, judging contest, 4-H leadership conference, information on "Hybrotife," preparing grain bins for wheat storage, corn driers, how soybean research pays off for farmers and consumers, and getting snakes out of the basement.

New Columns With Better Headings...

An increasing number of advisers are taking advantage of our offer to help design personal column headings. During the last few weeks, we've been doing business with Grace Wepner, Betty Jo Suhr, Jessie Nixon, Wallace Reynolds, Barbara Hill, and Warren Myers.

Field services editor Pat Close is your contact person. If you would like our artists to design a column heading, send Pat the following information: the name of your column, the name and other identification you want included and any suggestions you have for illustrations. She should also know whether you want the heading designed for one-column width or two columns.

An Idea...

If you haven't done so, wouldn't it be a good idea to invite your county press-radio editors to spend a day or have a meal at your 4-H camp this summer?

Feed Automation Through A One-Inch Pipe...

This week we are putting the finishing touches on a color-sound film which depicts how one Illinois farmer has put research to work in building an ultra-modern feeding system. He actually pipes feed over his spreading farmstead with the ease and convenience of pressurized water. Working on the project have been agricultural engineers of the University of Illinois and the Agricultural Research Service, USDA. Prints will be available for distribution by early July. A film report giving full details will be sent later.

USDA Motion Pictures...

The USDA film catalog has been revised, and copies are now available. This is an excellent reference book for films that may be integrated into meetings or TV shows. If you would like to have a copy, return the coupon below and we will forward it to you as soon as it is received.

I would like to have the film catalog, "Motion Pictures of USDA."

Name_____

Position_____

Address_____

The Communications Process...

In talking about the communications process, we tried to stress that it was simply a procedure whereby a "sender" selects a "message," codes it into symbols of writing, speaking or visualizing and sends it through a selected "channel" to an identified "receiver" for a desired "effect."

In analyzing the communications process, you are in effect asking Who? Says What? How? To Whom? Why?

6/9/60

It Says Here . . .

Open House for Home Editors...

DuPage County Home Adviser Elsie Butler and Assistant Adviser Rachael Crabb have excellent relationships with editors.

These relationships were further strengthened the first week in June when an open house was held for the woman's page editors of the county newspapers. Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Crabb worked closely with the information committee chairman of the county home bureau. Invitations were extended to the woman's page editors through the editors of the papers.

Jessie Heathman, who represented our office at the meeting, reports that "This was one of the most successful meetings of this type that I have attended. Much of the success resulted from the thorough advance planning." The fact that 11 of the 15 newspapers in the county were represented speaks for the success of the venture.

I know you think my next paragraph is going to be about the value of holding meetings with editors, but I'm not going to say a thing about it.

Pictures Get Printed...

Knox County's Arnold Kemp is one of the growing number of advisers who are finding that the surest way to get a story printed is to furnish good pictures.

A recent issue of the Galesburg-Register-Mail carried a four-column Kemp picture showing the planting of the corn test plots.

Another issue carried a story on the wool pool and featured five pictures showing what happens to wool from sheep to ba...g.

Covering the FFA Convention...

Many of you may have seen pictures and stories about the FFA Convention in your local newspapers. Pat Close and Rollie Henkes, along with student assistants Glen Broom and Ben Coplan, broke all records in turning out stories, pictures, and radio tape recordings.

The final count shows that 7 statewide stories were released from the convention. At the same time, 27 home-town releases were sent to 78 different newspapers, and 65 of the newspapers received pictures along with the releases. The group turned out 14 home-town radio tape recordings and helped WGN's Norm Kraeft and others make special recordings. In addition, they were responsible for shooting the record pictures of the convention for the state FFA organization.

As the saying goes, they came home tired but happy.

We don't know whether Photography Editor Jack Everly would approve this as a general practice, but nearly all of the news shots were turned out with a polaroid camera.

Solve Your Slide Mounting Problems...

During the extension conference last week, several advisers indicated that they needed an economical source for obtaining slide mounts. Requirements were an easy-to-use mount at low cost.

We believe Hugh Fulkerson, Ogle county, may have found the correct answer in the mount he has used on the "Believe Me Mister" film strip and others. It is the Armme Quick Mounts available for $3.00 per 100 from Burke & James, Inc., 321 South Wabash Avenue,, Chicago 4, Illinois. No hot iron is needed. Just cut the frame out of the film strip, tuck it into a slot, push the transparency into place, and you have it. Hugh reports that his secretary no longer dreads mounting slides. We can believe that. For standard double frames, order Slide Mount S1-8; for single frames, order S1-4.

6/16/60

It Says Here . . .

Measuring Progress...

The mailroom notified us today that there were a few remaining copies of our 1955 survey report on county information programs. We are keeping file copies and discarding the few others.

The report states: "This survey was designed to establish a benchmark for progress...." As we reviewed it, we wondered how much progress had been made in five years.

We don't plan another survey at this time, but we are going to do some guessing. If you want to play the game, you can do your own guessing.

	% Yes 1955	Our '60 Guess	Your Guess
Farm Advisers			
Reg. news service	66	80	____
Personal column	67	80	____
Reg. radio progr.	62	70	____
Reg. TV show	6	5	____
Own tape recorder	62	75	____
Home Advisers			
Reg. news service	59	65	____
Personal column	26	55	____
Reg. radio progr.	51	60	____
Reg. TV show	10	5	____
Own tape recorder	46	50	____

Five years ago, farm advisers rated personal columns higher than any other of nine methods for getting information to farm families. They rated daily newspaper stories second; field tours, third; stories in weekly papers, fourth. Winter meetings were next to the bottom.

Home advisers also rated personal columns first, but only by a narrow margin over TV shows. They put stories to daily newspapers third, and their county home bureau papers ranked fourth.

Progress In Training...

Back in 1955, farm advisers said a photography workshop was the most pressing need. They rated a workshop on news-story writing second, and one on information campaigns third.

Home advisers said they wanted a workshop on county publications most of all, and they placed one on news-story writing in the second spot. They agreed with the farm advisers regarding third place for a workshop on information campaigns.

In 1960 we find that we have held a complete series of workshops on effective writing, a series of three photography workshops at the state level and a series on 4-H exhibits.

Our guess now is that most advisers believe they have been about workshopped to death. So this fall we hope to come out with a brand-new communications handbook.

Rogers Rambled In...

We were out of the office last week when Perry County's Leslie Rogers came in with some tear sheets from the DuQuoin Evening Call, which regularly carries his column, "Rogers Ramblings,"

We would guess that Les wanted us to know that his column heading clearly identifies him with the University of Illinois.

When we talked about this need a couple of months ago, we picked Les's column out of a hat to use as an example. Guess it was a good example.

6-23-60

It Says Here . . .

Better Understanding Needed...

Last summer, graduate student Phil Jones conducted a research study in District V to measure farm family awareness of the Extension Service. His master's thesis reports the findings, and we are preparing a summary. We thought you would be interested in some of the highlights. Jones interviewed 100 farmers selected at random in the 19-county district.

1. Farmers were familiar with the work of the Extension Service. Of those interviewed, 88 knew the name of the county farm adviser, 86 knew that any farm family could get help from the adviser, and 69 were aware that the farm adviser worked with city people as well as farm people.

2. The farmers were not so sure about who hired the farm adviser. Of the 100 farmers, only 4 were aware that the County Extension Council helps select the farm adviser, while 34 thought the Farm Bureau Board did the hiring.

3. Only 7 out of the 100 farmers correctly identified the three sources of funds used in carrying on county extension activities. There were 28 who thought local dues were the ONLY source of funds.

4. Although 84 of the 100 farmers were aware that the farm adviser in his county held meetings, tours, and similar events, only 36 said they had attended such events during the past year.

5. Regarding other sources of information, 81 said they had read newspaper articles prepared by the farm adviser, 74 said they had received information through the mail, and 50 said they had received bulletins or circulars from the farm adviser.

6. An encouraging 65 of the 100 farmers said they had visited the farm adviser's office during the year, while 20 said the farm adviser had been on their farms.

7. When the farmers were asked to name their single most important source of information, 31 put "neighbors and friends" at the top of the list, and 26 gave the nod to farm magazines.

8. A number of questions were asked regarding attitudes toward increasing or decreasing the services being performed by the Extension Service. Here are some key answers:

--More than two-thirds of the farmers said that the services now being offered by farm advisers were of "much help."

--On the question of whether or not there should be an increase in funds to support the Extension Service, 31 voted yes, 43 said no, and 26 did not have an opinion. Most of those objecting were concerned about increased taxes.

Extra Photos Coming...

Our photographer-writer team that snapped county groups at last week's Extension Conference reports the venture a success. They shot 76 county groups and mailed prints to 165 newspapers.

While developing the prints, they made extra copies for almost every county. We'll mail these this week. You might post them on bulletin boards or other strategic spots to acquaint the people of the county with their Extension Council leaders.

6-30-60

It Says Here . . .

Hog Feeding and Management Survey...

At the request of the department of animal science, our office is conducting a hog feeding and management information survey this summer.

We're mainly interested in finding out how familiar Illinois hog raisers are with "the Illinois corn—soybean meal type ration." This ration was developed by the swine division and has been discussed rather widely by the livestock extension specialists during the last couple of years.

Now we need to know how well we have communicated the right information. We also want to know more about current hog-feeding systems and the average farmer's source of hog feeding and management information.

This study also will give us an opportunity to compare the results of a mailed questionnaire versus personal interviews. Hog raisers are being surveyed in five "pairs" of counties. Five hundred farmers each in Henry, Knox, Whiteside, Macoupin and Hancock counties are receiving the questionnaire by mail. Twenty farmers each in Bureau, McLean, DeKalb, Sangamon and Pike counties are being personally interviewed.

We hope to have the results of the survey ready for publication early in September.

Need Exhibits?...

Visual aids specialist John Behrens says that if you anticipate needing exhibits for coming agricultural fairs and other events, you should make your needs known NOW! Some of the Farm and Home Festival exhibit materials can be made available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Education With a Carnival Theme...

If you've always wanted to be a visual ideas man, here is your chance. At the Prairie Farmer Farm Progress Show this year, the College of Agriculture will stage another "Carnival of Knowledge."

Many of you remember that we used this theme a few years ago at an earlier Farm Progress Show.

The aim is to present sound educational information in a carnival atmosphere. Each department will have its own exhibit presentation.

So if you have an idea for a "message" that a department should tell and another idea for the way this message can be merchandised, rush us your mental masterpiece.

Timely Story Suggestions...

If you are stumped for stories, Pat Close suggests trying one of these:

1. Report the condition of county crops and the insect situation. Some farmers are wondering whether or not it's too late to replant soybeans. Corn borers and cutworms are causing trouble in several areas.

2. Write up the tactics farmers use in keeping their hogs and lambs cool during hot weather. Studies show that cooler livestock means higher returns.

3. Since it's hay- and silage-making time, a roundup story covering the various methods used by county farmers would interest readers.

Advisers Gain TV Experience...

Five farm and assistant farm advisers participated in the WCIA Farm Report program over Channel 3, Champaign, during the three weeks while Jon Greeneisen attended Army Reserve camp and took a few days' vacation.

We were well pleased with the good planning, use of visuals and timely presentations made by Arnold Rowand and Richard Swope, Ford; Paul Wilson, Livingston; Andrew Harris, Vermilion; and Warren Myers, Macon.

7-7-60

It Says Here . . .

Full-Page Picture Coverage...

The Lincoln Daily Courier gave the Hartsburg Test Plot Field Day one of the best pictorial coverages we have seen.

The paper used eight "candid" shots with pert titles to support a brief editorial report on a full-page spread.

One pix of a farmer looking at a wheat plot carried the caption, "Hmmm, a good variety." Another of a group of farmers looking at a printed report in front of another plot featured this line: "Going by the book."

Farm adviser Harold Brinkmeier gets this week's bouquet for maintaining such excellent relationships with his local editors.

Ready To Serve You...

All farm families in Randolph county recently received a double franked post card from the county extension staff of Frank Graham, Shirley Whitchurch, and Florine McConachie. The message side of the card said, "This is just a reminder that we in the Extension Service are here in this county to SERVE YOU. If you have a problem that you feel that one of us might help you with, we hope you will return the attached card."

On the return card, the farm family could indicate who of the county extension staff they would like to see and whether they would like to drop by the adviser's office or have the adviser visit the farm.

Mailings...

The Successful Farming wall chart is in this week's packet for farm advisers. By previous mail, each farm adviser and home adviser should have received a copy of the newsletter for the University of Illinois Citizens Committee.

Thinking About A Survey?...

If you've thought about a survey to answer questions about work in your county, you'll be interested to know that Harold Guither has completed the first draft of the "survey handbook" we mentioned sometime ago.

If you'd like to be part of the prepublication testing panel for the handbook, Harold is looking for volunteers. He needs a few farm and home advisers who are interested in surveys to look over the preliminary draft of the handbook sometime during August. Suggestions received will be incorporated in the final copy before publication.

Final copies should be available this fall for your use during the winter, when extension surveys can be carried out most successfully.

Halsey Miles On Dow Study Tour...

Bureau County's Halsey Miles visited the campus last Thursday with his colleagues from the North Central States on the Dow County Agent Travel Tour. As you may know, the Professional Advancement Committee of the Farm Advisers Association selected Halsey to represent Illinois advisers on this tour.

The trip got under way July 5 on the Purdue campus and winds up at the same place July 27. In between times, the group will visit experiment stations, top-notch farms, and other places of agricultural interest. They'll trek through nine midwestern and southern states.

Each member of the tour must present a detailed report to his state group upon his return. Consequently cameras clicked and pencils scribbled notes as the group visited the Morrow Plots and south farms.

7-14-60

It Says Here . . .

Staff Scattered Across The Nation...

As usual at this time of year, the editorial family is scattered hither and yon. Chief Hadley Read, for example, is currently at Iowa State University. As some of you may know, Hadley is editing a series of publications by the National Committee on Agricultural Policy. This is a committee of the land-grant colleges. They are preparing the publications in cooperation with the Agricultural Adjustment Center at Iowa State. Hadley is out there to wrap up the final production phases.

These publications should be off the press in September. States can then buy copies for use in educational programs on farm policy.

Three other staffers, Harold Guither, Jessie Heathman and grad student John Woods, are representing the office at the American Association of Agricultural College Editors meeting in Corvallis, Oregon. After the meeting, Jessie plans a vacation in Alaska.

On the other side of the nation, Janice Woodard is enjoying a three-week vacation at home in Endicott, New York.

County Services Editor Visiting...

Pat Close trekked southward yesterday to call on the Paris Beacon News, Richland county's Glenn Ash and Art Sechrest, and Clay county's Dale Bateman.

Pat reports that Glenn and Art have excellent cooperation with their local paper, the Olney Daily Mail. Twice a month this paper runs a farm page. Glenn writes a column for each farm page, while Art writes a weekly column on youth activities. They also turn in news stories and pictures for the page.

Every Saturday Glenn and Art stage a 15-minute radio program on the Olney station.

Among other comments, Glenn and Art suggested that we send advisers more fill-in stories.

Dale seconded this suggestion and added that we should take a closer look at the timing of our stories. Dale also says he can use more promotional stories on 4-H camping. It seems that attendance has been dropping off.

Dale serves several newspapers in his county with a column and other news items. And on Mondays, the Olney radio station carries a 10-minute program which Dale tapes ahead of time.

Incidentally, Pat brought back orders for column headings from these three advisers. If anyone else would like one, drop Pat a note.

County Extension Council Stories...

Farm and home advisers will find in this week's packet two stories concerning the extension councils. One story gives some background about the councils and explains what role they play.

The second story serves as an example of how farm advisers might write brief biographical sketches of their Ag Council members. Attached to the story is the information used to write it. We'll have a similar story for home advisers in the near future.

These stories were prepared at the request of several farm advisers who want to give their councils more recognition.

Tincher Displaying Exhibit...

Fred Tincher of Whiteside county will show the exhibit on county soil testing laboratories at his local fair August 17 to August 20. This is the exhibit that was displayed at last fall's conference. It was used originally at the National County Agents meeting in Kansas City.

If anyone else in northern Illinois would like to display this exhibit at a fair or in the office, drop us a line. It's easily carried in a station wagon, on a car-top carrier, or in some trunks. You might pick up the exhibit in Whiteside county, or make some other arrangement with Fred.

7-21-60

It Says Here . . .

"A Beautiful Day in Chicago" No More...

After a run of 32 years, the National Farm and Home Hour is off the air. In a brief statement, NBC explained that it would be replaced by 5-minute spots from the USDA on Saturday and Sunday broadcasts of Monitor.

So, for the first time since 1928, Illinois farmers cannot tune to NBC for a report on American farming. No longer can they receive that cheery assurance that "It's a beautiful day in Chicago!"

Although no reason was given for cutting the program, it would seem obvious that the diminishing farm audience was a factor. And it should serve as a warning that we cannot expect to maintain our current extension farm radio programs unless we take one of two steps: (1) We continually make station executives aware of a real, faithful farm following; (2) we incorporate considerable information in our programs that is of interest to urban listeners.

Whatever we may learn from this recent cut in farm programming, farm people will surely miss the old NF&HH.

Take Some Record Pictures...

If your local and county fairs are not already past history, take a few record pictures of some good 4-H booths, club exhibits, or demonstration plots. John Behrens would like to have you loan the pictures to him for a short time. We sometimes need good shots of this kind for publication. Too, some might be used in connection with the September District Workshops. Either black and white prints or color slides can be used.

Al Bouslog Inaugurates Radio Show...

Although NBC might be discouraged about farm programming, Pekin's WSIV is showing new interest. For some time the county farm adviser, Al Bouslog, had been toying with the idea of starting a 15-minute program each Saturday to publicize extension programs and 4-H. The two station co-owners were not, however, too enthusiastic about the idea.

So last week Jon Greeneisen and Pat Close met with Al to decide on a new "plan of attack." They first decided that a daily 5-minute spot might seem more attractive to the station. Most stations now utilize a fluid-type program schedule with no definite programs. In this type of programming, a four- or five-minute spot works extremely well.

Next, they decided to point out the tremendous amount of gardening and landscaping information that Al could also present to urban listeners.

With these new ideas in mind, they met with the station owners, who grew enthusiastic about possibilities for the program.

So, beginning around August 15, Al inaugurates a daily 5-minute show that will be featured within the station's 12:15 to 12:30 noon news program.

Al plans to visit the office once or twice to pick up some tips on radio announcing before he starts his program.

Jon and Pat report that they are ready to work with other advisers who might like to start their own program.

Statewide Pictorial Coverage for 4-H...

Ninety-nine county groups lined up last Monday for their pictures at the 4-H Leadership Camp. By the time you get this, more than 300 localized photos and cutlines will be in that many newspapers and local extension offices throughout the state. We hope you will like your group's picture and can make good use of it.

7/28/60

It Says Here . . .

Orchids To Montgomery County Papers...

Home Adviser Joan Sampson and Assistant Adviser Joan Mellican have nominated The Hillsboro Journal and The Montgomery News for this week's "Thank You" Orchid. We second the nomination, and the vote is unanimous. Both papers did an outstanding job of covering the recent Home Economics 4-H Show in the county.

New State Fair Exhibit...

The College of Agriculture will have a State Fair exhibit this year in the east window of the Illinois Building.

Entitled "A Report to You From Your University of Illinois College of Agriculture," our approach this year is different and somewhat experimental. We are trying to show briefly the activities and functions of the College through art work and explanatory copy.

Because it is more or less experimental, we would sincerely appreciate your comments on both subject matter and technique.

Timely Story Tips...

Several farm advisers have mentioned that they appreciate timely story suggestions. So here are a few more:

1. The breeding season for sheep is fast approaching. A story on flushing ewes and rams might remind farmers to get their sheep in top-notch breeding condition.

2. While swinging through southern Illinois last week, we noticed many fields choked by weeds. No doubt fields in other parts of the state are having the same problem. How about a story pointing out how these weeds are going to affect corn and soybean yields this fall?

3. Many counties are scheduling farm management tours. Promoting these tours as well as giving them follow-up coverage offers possibilities for several stories.

4. Stories on fly control during the warm months are always timely.

Here's How To Mount A Photograph...

There may be times when you want to reproduce a photograph for which you don't have the negative. So you have to shoot a picture of a picture to get the negative. If you have this need, you will be interested in Art Editor Chuc Isoline's tips on mounting photographs.

Photographs to be reproduced should be mounted on mounting board, illustration board, or similar artist's board. No bumps or wrinkles should appear in the photograph.

When using rubber cement to mount a photograph, cover the back of the photograph and the mounting area on the board and allow both to dry separately. Then place the photograph properly on the mounting board and smooth it down. Use a thin tissue or bond paper over the top surface of your photograph to protect it from smears and scratches.

In addition to rubber cement, there is a commercial wax paper for use in mounting or sticking down photographs. A similar adhesive comes in a liquid form to be sprayed from a can. Rubber cement is easier to obtain and more economical to use.

There should be ample space around the photograph for marking, but not more than an inch. If you leave too much space, it makes it difficult for a cameraman to copy several photographs at one time. For protection, a smooth, hard-surface paper should be put over the photograph. The protective cover may be taped at one edge on the mounting board to form a flap. Between the flap and the photograph, there should be a transparent flap for instructions to the cameraman.

8-4-60

It Says Here . . .

New Circular May Suggest Local Stories...

The new regional publication, "Getting Started and Established in Farming," by Franklin Reiss could suggest some ideas for high-interest local feature stories.

Have you observed any successful father-son partnerships that have enabled a young man to get started farming? Have you seen how wise use of credit has enabled a successful young farmer to get established? Are there any operations in your county where a farmer has retired and rented machinery and livestock as well as land to a young man who had no capital? Are any farms being sold on installment contracts?

These ideas are discussed in the new circular. Add some real-life experiences and you'll have a high-interest news feature story.

Local Pictures Help...

Being handy with a camera is one sure way of getting better news coverage in your local papers. Bob Wack shot a picture of the soil survey team in Stephenson County. The Freeport Journal Standard used the picture along with the information Bob supplied and turned both into a page 3 feature.

Breeze Courier Supports Extension...

Christian County's Assistant Farm Adviser Carl Pfeiffer wants to make sure the Breeze Courier is included near the top of the list of newspapers that go all out to support extension work.

In a note to Assistant State Leader Ed Barnes, he called attention to the front-page coverage of recent county 4-H events. The coverage included banner headlines and pictures on page 1. You can't do much better than that.

Small World, Isn't It?...

Ohio sociologists Everett Rogers and Dwayne Yost have made a study of how Ohio county agents receive and pass along new scientific agricultural information. You may be interested in seeing how their findings check out with your experiences.

1. The agents listed extension specialists, station bulletins and farm magazines as their most important sources of information.
2. They find that one of their big problems is to select adequate sources of information to read in the minimum amount of time available. They receive an average of eight farm magazines and seven professional publications, but they only "scan read" many of them.
3. There is an "adoption period" for agents just as there is for farmers. In Ohio, agents did not recommend the use of stilbestrol until two years after they had first heard about it.
4. Agents listed newspaper articles, meetings, and personal contacts as their most important methods of getting information to farmers.
5. Agents felt that they did not get enough information fast enough. They wanted short, monthly progress reports of research under way, more newsletters from specialists, and more help from them.

We suspect that the above findings apply to Illinois about as well as they do to Ohio.

Four Hands Better Than Two...

Mason County Farm Adviser Joe Faggetti says its amazing how much an extra pair of hands help in strengthening a county information program. He tips his hat to Assistant Farm Adviser Stanley Eden.

8-11-60

It Says Here . . .

Homemakers On Radio...

The July issue of the EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW features an article by LaSalle County Home Adviser Mrs. Arvena Pearson. Entitled "Homemakers Report by Radio," the story describes the homemaker programs aired over Ottawa's WCMY, Streator's WIZZ and LaSalle's WLPO.

Mrs. Pearson tells how the programs began seven years ago and how her homemaking units produce the programs. If you haven't read the story yet, read it over a cup of coffee this morning. It presents some good ideas that other counties might want to try.

Top-Notch Coverage In Macomb...

McDonough county's Dick Weller and Earl Kingman have sent us a copy of the Macomb Journal's annual 4-H edition and news clippings of the Journal's 4-H Fair coverage. This is ample evidence of the top-notch news coverage of 4-H activities that the Journal gives. Dick and Earl add that 4-H and farming information printed by the Journal is continuous all year. Reporters stop by their office every morning for farm news information.

Station WKAI also cooperates in covering county farm news events. During the Fair they broadcast three live shows daily from the fairgrounds. And every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the station carries a farm news program by Dick and Earl from 6:15 to 6:30. Additional radio time is available if needed.

The Macomb Journal and WKAI are also large financial supporters of the local 4-H building program.

It certainly looks as if McDonough county has excellent cooperation with its news media.

8/18/60

Photo Of New Associate Director...

A photo of Dean Howard conferring with our new Associate Extension Director, Dr. John B. "Jack" Claar, was sent to all farm advisers in last Friday's news packet. This is a different pose than daily papers received. It is intended for use in any local outlet you may choose--weekly newspaper, county farm bureau paper, or your office bulletin board. Home advisers who have a special use for the photo may want to check with the farm adviser.

Adviser Photo Finds Good Use...

When the Dixon Telegraph carried a 3-column double headline about Ogle Home Ec Council appointments, the story also carried a half-column-wide photo of Home Adviser Pearl Barnes, whose by-line appeared on the story. Does your local paper have a half-column cut of you that it could use occasionally?

Tours Offer Good Story Leads...

The recent Farm Management Tour in Greene county presented O. O. Mowery, Macoupin county farm adviser, an excellent opportunity to point out good farm management practices to his column readers the next week. Three more tours on August 30 in western Illinois, August 31 in northern Illinois and September 1 in central Illinois offer similar opportunities for other advisers. They can pick up good ideas for passing on to farmers who can't go themselves.

Thanks For Your Help...

A thought for the day: Never pass up an opportunity to specifically express your appreciation to those who lend a hand in your work. This goes double when it comes to thanking newspaper, radio and television editors.

It Says Here . . .

Farmers and Their County Agents...

A couple of weeks ago we mentioned an Ohio study on county agent sources of information. Now Ohio sociologists Everett Rogers and Hal Capener report another study on characteristics of farmers who have a high or low degree of contact with their county agents. Here is what they found:

"Farmers consider the county agent their one most important line of communication with agricultural scientists.

"Yet 57 percent of these farmers had no direct personal contact with their agent during the year before field interviews; another 22 percent had no impersonal contact, such as through mass media; and 21 percent reported no contact of any kind with their agent during the preceding year.

"Farmers making more use of agents had more education, higher social class position, higher farm incomes, and more off-farm work. They also read more farm magazines, had higher scores on adoption of farm practices, earlier awareness of new farm practices, a tendency to be adoption leaders, and better understanding of Extension Service.

"Almost half these farmers reported indirect contact with their agents through another farmer, but these men tended to be the same persons the agents reached through direct contact. A related finding: Farmers reached by other extension activities were the same farmers the county agent visited personally. Agents did not generally use visits to contact 'hard-to-reach' farmers."

Local Names Make News...

Local names in your stories and column can add interest and readership. Farm management tours, experiment field meetings and such state-wide events as Cattle Feeders' Day and Agronomy Day present opportunities to use local names and tell an extension story at the same time.

When you spot farmers from your county at these meetings, ask for their opinions about some new practice or new research finding. Find out whether they could use any of these ideas on their farms. Ask what ideas they plan to put into practice.

When you include their comments in your news service, you'll please both your editor and your readers.

Volume of Direct Mail Climbing...

The Information Division of the Federal Extension Service reports that industry plans to spend twice as much on direct mail this year as it did 10 years ago. In 1950, industrial direct mail volume totaled $1 billion. It climbed to $1½ billion in 1955 and is expected to top $2 billion this year. With this rapid climb, direct mail now ranks second only to newspapers in advertising volume.

Direct mail has been defined as "a vehicle for transmitting a message in permanent written, printed or processed form, by controlled distribution, direct to selected individuals."

Many extension communications, of course, fit this definition. These include circular letters, letters to commodity groups, flash cards, self-mailers, house organs and envelope stuffers. The audience is the determining factor. If a communication is prepared for and sent to a specific audience, it's direct mail.

Many farm and home advisers already use direct mail in their information and promotional programs. Those who haven't tried it yet might find that it pays big dividends.

8-25-60

It Says Here . . .

8 Myths About The Farm Situation...

In this week's packet, farm advisers will find a special leaflet by Carroll P. Streeter, editor of FARM JOURNAL.

The leaflet is called "8 Myths About The Farm Situation." It first appeared as an advertisement in the New York Times and was later reproduced in the READER'S DIGEST. We thought you might like to have a copy for your reference and files. If you quote the material, give credit to Carroll Streeter as the source of the information.

Column-Writing Tip...

Advisers often mention that they need "reminders" for items to include in their weekly column. Here's a tip that might help:

File your columns each week. Then next year during the corresponding week or month you can refer to them for ideas.

This Week's Orchid...

This week's orchid for excellent coverage of a 4-H Club show goes to the Rushville Times in Schuyler County. They gave the show plenty of advance, on-the-spot and follow-up coverage.

Writing Suggestions...

We all know that using personal experiences or personal references creates reader interest in our copy. Lauren K. Soth, editor of the DesMoines Register editorial pages, says this:

"Force yourself to write about people doing things. Instead of saying, 'There was a decline in milk consumption in city markets,' say 'City families drank less milk.'

"Be interesting enough to convince the reader that what you have to say is important to him, or he won't read the article at all. Personal references have a lot to do with readability. Proper names, personal pronouns and words indicating human beings put life into your copy."

New Faces In New Places

One of the favorite expressions of extension work is "change." With mixed emotions, we must report some changes in the staff of the Extension Editorial Office.

Owen (Rip) Glissendorf, who has been in charge of our agricultural journalism teaching program for three years, is transferring to the Publications Office.

Colleague Jon Greeneisen steps into the agricultural journalism teaching position. In addition to teaching, he will coordinate our communications training program and be in charge of our limited farm television operations.

John J. Feight joins our staff on September 15 to take over the farm radio editorship. John, a native of Kansas, graduated from Kansas State College and was a 4-H Club agent in that state before starting work on his master's degree in journalism at Iowa State two years ago.

On October 10 we must wish John Behrens the best of luck in his new position as Supervisor of Conservation Education in the Department of Education in Springfield. It would be impossible to list John's many contributions to the field of visual communications during the five years he has been on the staff.

This week we welcomed two new graduate assistants who joined the staff to work toward advanced degrees in communications.

Edward Wilson graduated in June from the College of Agriculture at the University of Delaware.

Gerald Smith adds an international flavor to the office. Gerald is a native of England and a graduate of Cambridge University. He is an Australian now, though, and is on a Fulbright leave from his position as editor on the staff of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organization in Melbourne.

9/8/60

It Says Here . . .

"Spots" Included in Packet...

In this week's packet to home advisers we've included a set of "spots." These drawings and sketches may be used in mimeographed newsletters, leaflets, booklets and other direct mail efforts.

The Information Division of the Federal Extension Service has supplied these spots. We don't know how useful they will be, so we will appreciate your comments. If you can use more, let us know.

Some farm advisers may also find these spots in their packets. We had enough to send one set to all home advisers, but not enough for all farm advisers. Farm advisers not receiving them can probably borrow them from their colleagues.

News in Soil Test Labs...

An interesting story about the new Iroquois County soil testing procedures appeared recently in the farm bureau paper. Since fall is an excellent time to take soil samples, local stories would be in order on soil testing and the testing facilities available in your county.

Special Packet on Wet Corn...

As you know, many farmers are wondering how to handle high-moisture corn if frost damages this year's late crop. We have prepared a special packet containing stories on the harvesting, storing, feeding and economics of high-moisture corn. We'll mail this packet to all farm advisers either this week or early next week.

Timely Story Tips...

From time to time the staff discusses story ideas. Here are several we gleaned from our last meeting:

1. Report on general crop conditions in your county.
2. If one farmer's corn fields are not so dry as others, find out why. Perhaps he used moisture conservation methods that will make a good "farmer experience" story.
3. Suggest that farmers get their harvesting equipment in tip-top shape to avoid costly breakdowns during harvest.
4. Report on the different methods of handling newly arrived feeder cattle and lambs.
5. Discuss the relative merits of recommended wheat varieties for your area.
6. Point out the advantages and disadvantages of using livestock to glean cornfields.

Dress Up Column Headings...

Just a reminder that our services are available to help you design more attractive column headings. A number of advisers have already requested new headings.

Most headings include either a thumbnail photo of the adviser or a sketch of a typical farm or home scene. It's easiest to fit art work into a two-column heading and this heading stands out from other stories or columns on the newspaper page.

If you would like a new heading, just drop a note to County Services Editor Pat Close.

9/15/60

It Says Here . . .

New Network TV Farm Show...

An NBC television crew rolled onto the campus last week for a busy two-day filming session. The object: to shoot a farm research report for an upcoming network farm show.

Next month the National Broadcasting Company will kick off a weekly half-hour television show called "Today on the Farm." At least 190 stations will telecast the program every Saturday at 7 a.m.

Tentative format for the show includes farm news, discussions, filmed research reports and entertainment by Eddy Arnold. Mal Hansen, a former farm radio-television director from Omaha, will handle the show.

Here at Illinois the crew of seven, a director, producer, writer and four-man camera team, filmed a story about the importance of soil and how farmers can learn more about their soils. M. B. Russell, head of the department of agronomy, starred for the U. of I.

So far as we know, this will be the only network farm program on either radio or television. We are certainly pleased with it, for there's a definite need for such a program.

Watch your local papers for the program's starting date. Mentioning it in your personal column or in a news story will help to make farmers aware of the program.

More on Column Headings...

Last week's item on column headings brought a request from Eloise J. Tholen, Greene county home adviser. Anyone else who is interested in a spanking new heading for a column should drop a note to Pat Close.

We Tip Our Hat...

Once again we tip our hat to the Galesburg Register-Mail for their excellent coverage of farm news. Knox county farm adviser Arnold Kemp sent us a clipping showing several photographs used with a pond management story. Kemp, who took the pictures, says, "These pictures again demonstrate to me that we need to go more than halfway with our local editors to get the best coverage."

Wet Corn Requests...

By now farm advisers should have the special packet on wet corn. Since feeding and handling wet corn has so many phases, we did not cover everything. If we neglected anything that's causing particular trouble in your area, drop us a note. We'll send out more stories.

Tips From Other States...

The other day we ran across two ideas from Wisconsin county agents.

One agent prepares a calendar of coming events every month. The calendar lists all important agricultural and home economics events for the next two months. It also gives a few pertinent details about events occurring within the next two or three weeks.

As a result of the calendar, the county agent's office serves as a clearing house for dates. This helps to prevent conflicts. The calendar goes to newspapers, radio stations, 4-H leaders and ag and home ec organizations.

Another agent uses post cards for inviting farmers to farm tours. He mimeographs the message on the cards, addresses them and then has the "host" farmer sign them.

9-22-60

It Says Here . . .

N. C. Extension Editor Visits...

Last week the office played host to Bill Carpenter, North Carolina's extension editor. Bill wanted to learn more about Illinois' information program. On Wednesday, he visited with John McCue and Clint Cutright.

He reported that John writes a personal column carried by seven weekly papers in Douglas county. The column also goes to four dailies in Champaign, Mattoon and Decatur.

Twice a month John prepares a 15-minute radio program for Decatur's WDZ. He is not preparing any television programming at the present time, but formerly appeared on the Decatur station once a month.

Clint Cutright reported that he has excellent cooperation from the Effingham Daily News. Their farm editor regularly covers meetings and tours and devotes much time to other farm news in the area.

Radio station WCRA is also extremely interested in farm and home news. Clint, assistant adviser Jeff Brooks, and home adviser Marion Simon each prepare a 15-minute weekly program. The station also helps to promote meetings in the county.

Licking Salt Helps Hoarseness...

Here's a tip that might help farm or home advisers who tend to become hoarse at meetings or on radio: Keep some salt on hand. Licking a little salt in the palm of your hand helps to overcome hoarseness.

Ideas For Communications Handbook...

You now have all had a chance to see the first set of units for the communications handbook. You should have some idea whether or not such units will be helpful to you. We sincerely hope you will share your comments with us and will give us your recommendations for topics to be covered in future units.

The Vocational Agriculture Service has ordered units for all vocational agriculture teachers in the state, and copies are being provided for members of the state extension staff.

Tips And Ideas...

Here's an idea picked up from John McCue:

Each summer John prepares a list of some 50 farm topics. Several samples from this summer's list include (1) wills, leases and landlord-tenant relations, (2) livestock outlook, (3) land prices, (4) income tax changes and (5) managing a farm for high net returns.

John sends this list to approximately 2,300 farmers on his mailing list along with a return post card which carries the number of each topic. He asks the farmer to indicate the topics on which he would like more information. The farmer can do so by merely circling the appropriate numbers on the post card and dropping it in the mail. About 350 farmers return the cards.

The response to this list of topics helps him plan his program of work.

9-29-60

It Says Here . . .

Dinner Meetings Play Dual Role...

Advisers are showing an increasing interest in dinner meetings for their newspaper, radio and television editors. This is good. These meetings play a dual role:

They are a means of expressing appreciation for the coverage editors have given extension information. And editors can get better acquainted with the county extension staff and learn what news services the staff can provide.

When planning such dinner meetings, invite the editors to participate. Let them tell what type of information they want. You might ask a local merchant or banker to discuss the importance of agriculture to the community. He could cite crop and livestock income statistics and other information. This would serve as a subtle reminder to the editors that agriculture still plays an important role in the community.

If it's impossible to hold a dinner meeting, express your appreciation in a note to the editor. Or drop by his office. Ask him to suggest news stories or pictures you could provide. If you receive any comments from readers, pass them on to the editor.

Fall Chrysanthemums...

The first fall chrysanthemum goes to Wayne County Record in Fairfield. Farm adviser Fred Holhubner says he is extremely pleased with the Record's coverage of agricultural news during the past two years.

10/6/60

Better Serving County Visual Needs...

An increasing number of advisers are urging that we find better ways to provide county staffs with visual materials, supplies and services The district workshops on visual communications gave added stimulus to this need.

At best, this is a tough nut to crack. But that does not mean that better ways can't be found. We think they can, and we plan to discuss the situation thoroughly with Dr. Claar, Miss Dunlap and others of the administrative staff here.

The collective voice of the county staffs should be heard in these discussions. We should know what kinds of materials and supplies you need. We also need to know what kind of visual, art, and photographic services would be most helpful.

We suggest that you discuss these needs with your assistant state leader. You may also want to outline your thinking in a letter to us.

We are sure you will recognize certain practical limitations at the outset. Some of these limitations can be removed, but others will be pretty hard to get rid of.

Too, there is the matter of basic philosophy. Is it more efficient and effective to provide materials, supplies, and services from a central source, or should they be provided at the local level? Will you use a visual aid produced at the state level as much as one you make yourself? Is a discount of 10, 15, or even 20 percent on materials and supplies enough to offset the additional clerical and bookkeeping costs of central purchasing and distribution?

We would appreciate having your views.

It Says Here . . .

Statistics Make Excellent Stories...

James Brooks, assistant farm adviser in Marion county, recently sent us a copy of his personal column. It dealt with an interpretation of the county's agricultural statistics. Here are some excerpts:

"Who is an average Marion county farmer? He is 51.5 years old and farms 155.5 acres. His farm is worth $129 per acre and the principal crops might be cash grain, livestock or small fruits.

"Farm families now number 1,879, which is a decrease of 254 since the 1954 census. There are 211 tenants, 912 full-time owners, 755 part owners and 1 manager. The approximate land area includes 371,200 acres with an average land and building value of $21,016 per farm."

Such an interpretation of statistics provides a wonderful opportunity for keeping people, especially city people, better informed about agriculture.

Current statistics can be compared with past figures to show whether farms are getting larger or smaller, whether more or less money is being spent for machinery and livestock, whether farmers are getting older or younger, and so on.

But remember that statistics need a considerable amount of interpretation. For example, figures might show that the average farm size has increased by 40 acres. The average reader may assume that all county farms are 40 acres larger. They need to be told that, while some farms have increased in size, others have grown smaller.

Although James presented his statistics in a personal column, the material could also make an excellent news story or series of stories.

10-13-60

Keys to Good Radio Program...

At a recent home bureau meeting in DeKalb, George Biggar, manager of WLBK, suggested asking these questions when planning a radio program:

Does the material interest you? How important is it to the majority of families in the coverage area? Does it have sufficient interest to deserve air time?

Answers to these questions can help you prepare better radio programs.

News in Fall Conference...

As this is being written, Fall Conference is in full swing. Some stories from the special ag and home ec sessions as well as the general sessions might attract reader interest in the counties. Interpret the material in terms of what it could mean to people in your county.

Corn-Picker Safety...

We sincerely feel that corn-picker safety can never be overemphasized. Safety specialist Ordie Hogsett tells us that 210 corn-picker accidents occurred in Illinois last year. Six were fatal. Actually this number is below the national prediction, but it's still 210 too many. National figures show that three percent of all corn pickers will be involved in accidents. Illinois has approximately 95,000 to 100,000 pickers. This means that about 300 accidents could happen. Let's do all we can to see that these accidents never occur.

Special Forestry Packet...

This week farm advisers will receive a special packet designed to help promote National Forests Products Week, October 16-22. These stories will also be sent to all daily newspapers. The Department of Forestry hopes you can use the stories locally for weeklies, farm bureau papers or other outlets.

It Says Here . . .

New Twist To A Good Idea...

McHenry County's Ralph Burnett has come up with a new twist to an idea that has always been good.

Ralph likes the idea of having county dinner meetings for press, radio and TV editors. He believes it gives the Extension Service an opportunity to express appreciation to the editors for outstanding cooperation. At the same time, it offers the county extension staff an opportunity to become better acquainted with the editors and their problems.

When he set about planning such a dinner, it occurred to him that other agricultural groups in the county might have the same desire to "thank" the editors for help and cooperation. So he is planning to make his editors' meeting a cooperative affair.

All educational and public agricultural groups in the county will be invited to serve as joint hosts for a county editors' dinner meeting. The groups will include the Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Production Credit Association and others.

With such an arrangement, all agricultural groups in the county can help portray the importance of agriculture to the community. Editors will be able to better understand the role of each agency and group. All groups, in turn, will better understand the problems of the editors.

Ralph plans to hold the meeting sometime in November. We will pass along more details on the plan when we get them.

The idea already is catching on. Jack Mullen thinks he may try it in Rock Island County, and Winnebago's R. G. Kerr is thinking along the same lines.

FFA Reporter Workshops Planned...

Starting Tuesday, October 25, in Mt. Vernon, the staff will kick off the first of five workshops for FFA chapter and sectional reporters.

These workshops are designed to help reporters do a better job of getting chapter news to their communities. The workshops will cover news writing and radio reports and interviews. They will also touch on photography and television. Here's the schedule for the remainder of the workshops:

October 26:	Petersburg
November 1:	Princeton
November 2:	DeKalb
November 4:	Champaign

Promotion Aids Coming...

Next week farm advisers should receive a packet of news stories and timely paragraphs about the 1961 farm account book. Two newspaper mats are also included. Local interest might be added to the stories by citing experiences of local farmers who have benefited by keeping complete farm account records.

Questions Help...

When you sit down to prepare your regular news service and are short on ideas, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What events coming up soon should farm people know about?

2. What questions have I been asked this week to which other people would like the answers?

3. What farmers do I know who are doing exceptionally good work in some phase of farming?

10/20/60

It Says Here . . .

Whiteside County Reviews Program...

Last week we met with the Whiteside county staff to review and discuss their information program. At the same time, we asked them to suggest services they would like our office to offer.

Among other things, assistant adviser John Huftalin said he would appreciate receiving a skeletal framework of a 15-minute radio program each week. We're wondering if anyone else has any opinion regarding this or other services. Drop us a note if you do.

New Ideas...

While returning from Whiteside county, we dropped in to visit Lee county's Jim Somers for a few minutes. We spotted a direct mail letter from Jim to his cooperators concerning an upcoming agronomy meeting. Jim had arranged head-and-shoulder photos of the three speakers on the left-hand margin of the letter.

Jim believes this gives the letter a more personal touch. And he hopes it brings in more people to the meetings. He has used this technique several times, arranging the photographs according to how many there are.

A Tip of the Hat...

This week we tip our hat to the Lewistown News for their excellent promotion of the Fulton County Safety Field Day. The paper devoted an entire page in one issue to drum up interest in the event.

FFA Reporter's Handbook...

As mentioned before, Pat Close and Jon Greeneisen are conducting a series of five area workshops for FFA chapter reporters. With the help of Dean Nosker, they put together an attractive "FFA Reporter's Handbook" for use by the reporters. We have a few extra copies if any of you would like to take a look at it. Just drop a note to Pat with your request.

Who Is "Doctor"?...

"In America we commonly address as 'Doctor' only persons holding the following degrees: M.D. (Doctor of Medicine), D.D.S. (Doctor of Dental Surgery), D.D. (Doctor of Divinity), and optionally Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) and Sc.D. (Doctor of Science). The latter doctorates along with LL.D. (Doctor of Laws) are more likely to be courtesy rather than professional titles, to be used socially or not as the holder prefers.

"Veterinarians, chiropodists, and chiropractors (in some states) who hold professional degrees use the title 'Dr.' both socially and professionally."--from Amy Vanderbilt's Complete Book of Etiquette, Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y. 1954, page 253.

The general policy in the American press is to use "Dr." for physicians, dentists, and veterinarians, but not for holders of Ph.D. degrees. The University Office of Public Information and the College of Agriculture Extension Editorial Office also follow this policy.

In radio and television interviews, and in introductions at meetings, the use of "Dr." for holders of Ph.D. degrees can be considered more in the social category. Whether to use it or not can best be governed by the preference of the person concerned.

10/27/60

It Says Here . . .

Winnebago County On The Air...

The Winnebago county staff, farm adviser R. G. Kerr, assistant Ken Slocum and home adviser Alfretta Dickinson, report that they each have a taped program on Beloit's WBEL once a week. In addition, Dick tapes six programs a week for WRRR, one for WJRL, and prepares one tape with nine 60- and 90-second spots for WROK.

Much to their regret, they are unable to be on either local television station. Nevertheless, it certainly sounds as if they are keeping the air waves humming.

1961 4-H Club Week Mat Orders...

Proof sheets for the 1961 4-H Club Week mats are now in our office. You'll receive the proof sheets and order blanks within the next few days. Dean Mosker, who will take care of your mat orders, requests that you be on the lookout for the proof sheets. A quick reply from you will help us give fast, efficient service on this year's mats.

Weekly News Service...

Wabash county's C. R. Engelhardt and also several other advisers have been discussing plans with us for establishing weekly news services in their counties. If any other counties would like to confer, just drop us a note.

A Tip Of The Hat...

This week we tip our hat to the Cairo Evening Citizen for its excellent farm page. Stanley Ceglinski, Pulaski-Alexander farm adviser, sent us a copy.

11/3/60

Tips For Easy Writing...

Many advisers seem to believe that writing for a newspaper is a tough job, when actually it's as easy as writing a letter. Here are the points to keep in mind:

1. Good newswriting is simply clear thinking on paper.

2. Good newswriting means organizing and presenting your ideas in a logical way.

3. Good newswriting means using words your readers will understand.

4. Good newswriting means using short, varied sentences.

5. Good newswriting is writing that sounds the way you talk.

Experience Stories Offer Photos...

Few farm or home experience stories can be written without furnishing many excellent picture ideas and possibilities. Most of your personal experience stories will be built around "how" somebody accomplished something.

If you are writing a story about a farmer's efficient feeding system, you can probably show part of it better than you can describe it. You can report that one of your farmers has such an excellent pasture program that one acre will support so many head of cattle. But a picture of those cattle will prove your point.

A series of pictures on Mrs. Jones' remodeled kitchen will also tell the story better than words.

It Says Here ...

Careers Exhibit Available...

Several weeks ago the Effingham county staff requested an exhibit on agricultural and home economics careers. Their 4-H Clubs had been given space in the Effingham Home Show, and they decided to use such an exhibit.

This exhibit is built so that any county can use it. It features 24 photos depicting various careers, along with a list of careers. Viewers are asked to match the photographs with the careers. Effingham county used 4-H'ers to man the exhibit.

Clinton Cutright estimates that some 2,000 people viewed the exhibit, while 100 people actually filled out and turned in the "career quiz sheets."

If other counties would like to borrow this exhibit, notify Pat Close.

Farm-City News Week Packet...

In this week's mailing, each farm and home adviser will receive a packet of information designed to help highlight the importance of Illinois agriculture.

The packet contains facts you can use in your news services, columns and talks during Farm-City Week November 18-24. It includes three news stories, some short paragraph fillers or radio shorts and the booklet, The Food We Eat, published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Press Editor Harold Guither prepared the packet with help from A. T. Anderson and Robert Spitze in agricultural economics. They would appreciate your comments and suggestions to help plan future Farm-City Week information.

Column Headings in Progress...

A number of farm and home advisers have requested column headings during the past six weeks. Since our art staff is swamped, it's taking longer than usual to prepare the rough drafts. But as soon as they are ready, we'll drop them in the mail.

November Wall Chart...

Farm advisers should this week receive the November wall chart, "Which Fertilizer System Is for You?"

Story Tips...

If your story ideas are running low, here are a few suggestions:

1. Proper feeding for pregnant cows and ewes.

2. Planting windbreak trees around farm homes and buildings. It's still not too late in some areas. Winter's first chilly winds have already shown the advantages of such windbreaks.

3. Use of windbreaks to help cut livestock feed costs. Farmers can build solid board fences if no trees are handy.

4. Proper but economical feeding of next year's show steers.

5. Getting livestock water heaters ready for winter.

6. Cleaning and oiling machinery thoroughly before storing it.

7. Advantages and disadvantages of fall and winter plowing.

11/10/60

It Says Here . . .

The Influence of Newspapers...

In a recent letter, colleague Andy Wicklein pointed out that John Kennedy won the election even though the newspapers editorially supported Richard Nixon by a ratio of more than 3 to 1.

Says Andy, "My question is, do newspapers influence people as much as you tell us they do, or do the Democrats not read the newspapers?"

A good question deserves a good answer, and this is the way we tried to answer Andy's question:

"The fact that Kennedy won the election does not mean that newspapers lack influence. Most newspapers, we believe, tried hard to give accurate and equal 'news' treatment to both candidates regardless of where they stood editorially. The influence of a newspaper comes more through its news columns than through its editorial columns, simply because a great many more people read the front page than the editorial page.

"Put another way, the influence of a newspaper comes from its traditional role of reporting news. Our position has always been that a newspaper offers agriculture an extremely efficient method of communicating with people--of giving them facts, opinions and points of view. There are a great many factors that will determine the 'action' taken by people once they have received accurate information."

As a postscript to this reply, we would say that if we were supporting a good cause we would much rather have newspapers for us than against us. And we would always keep in mind the fact that neither newspapers, nor extension editors, nor farm advisers are infallible.

Working on Weed Slide Set...

Final work on a mass-produced slide set regarding weed control will start in early December. E. L. Knake, extension crops specialist, is handling details of the project. He hopes that sets will be available for county staffs by January. Watch for a film report and distribution information.

Tries Low-Cost Negative Slides...

In story-boarding his annual presentation before his council and Farm Bureau board, Ralph Broom, Bond county farm adviser, found that he needed some "bridge" slides to carry his audience from one point to another. To get them, he used the low-cost negative slides described in Photograph Unit 5 in the Communication Handbook. He added green food coloring to the emulsion side of the negative slide so that they projected like a color transparency. His audience actually thought they were color slides. Broom used clean, sharp typewriter type in the copy. Simple India ink illustrations visualized the message.

Story-Board Put to Work in DeKalb County..

"The wealth of DeKalb county lies in her soil and its intelligent development." So starts the first chapter in the proposed conservation slide set being created in DeKalb county. Farm Adviser Al Golden described to the slide set committee the story-board technique in planning color slide stories. This technique is explained in Photography Unit 3 of the Communication Handbook. The latest word indicates that they are shooting for a spring production deadline. It sounds as if the story-board is working.

11-22-60

It Says Here . . .

A Look To The Future...

In recent weeks our editorial staff has been giving much attention to our "role" in the future. This attention has been a prelude to preparation of our plan of work for 1961, although we have tried to look further ahead than just one year. Here is the way we look at our job in the '60's:

THE AUDIENCE FOR EXTENSION INFORMATION IS CHANGING.

1. There are and will continue to be fewer but larger farms. These farms will be more complex and more specialized, and will require higher skills on the part of owners and operators.

2. The number of part-time farmers with off-farm sources of income will continue to increase.

3. There will be a growing demand on the part of the general public for educational services.

4. There will be an increase in the number of wives with jobs away from home.

5. The number of rural non-farm residents will continue to increase.

6. There will be an increase in the size and importance of "intermediate audiences"--the suppliers of farm goods and services and the processors and handlers of farm products.

7. Significant changes will occur in the style of farm family living.

8. Farm and city youth will have earlier independence, with more freedom, less direction, less guidance, and more indecision. The movement of farm youth to non-farm jobs will increase.

THE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION ALSO WILL CONTINUE TO CHANGE

1. There will be fewer farm editors on large daily newspapers. These newspapers will give less space and attention to production-type farm news. They may give increased attention to non-production farm news.

2. The number of suburban newspapers will continue to increase.

3. There will be more and better agricultural business, industry, and organization magazines, journals, and house organs beamed toward the farm audience.

4. The number of local radio stations will continue to increase, and these stations will play a more important role in community affairs.

5. Television has become and will continue to be the "common denominator" for the mass audience, with program content dominated by the national networks.

6. The role of the regional and national general farm magazine will change, and the number of specialized farm magazines will increase.

7. There will be marked increases in the number of free and subscription newsletter services, especially in the field of marketing and consumer information.

8. Interpersonal channels of communication will change, with a probable decline in public interest in strictly local meetings. At the same time, interest in special area and state-wide meetings and events may increase.

9. An increased number of commercial people will be giving face-to-face information to farmers.

12/1/60

It Says Here . . .

Taking Surveys Among Farm Families...

This week each farm adviser and each home adviser will receive a copy of our new publication, "Taking Surveys Among Farm Families."

If you are planning a county survey in the near future, you will find this publication a valuable aid. If you are not planning a survey immediately, file it for future reference.

These chapter headings will give you an idea of the content:

1. What Surveys Can Do for You
2. Types of Surveys You Can Use
3. Compiling a Questionnaire
4. Selecting a Sample
5. Conducting the Survey
6. Analyzing the Returns

The material was put together by assistant extension editor Harold Guither, and we think he has done an excellent job.

Assistant advisers and state specialists who would like a copy should address a request to the editorial office, 330 Mumford Hall.

December Wall Charts Arrive...

The December wall charts from SUCCESSFUL FARMING have arrived and will be mailed to farm advisers this week. Called "How to Handle Livestock," the charts feature sketches and diagrams of corrals, holding pens, squeezes and chutes.

12/8/60

The Farmer and His Hog Business...

In the farm advisers' packet this week will be the report, "The Farmer and His Hog Business." This is Agricultural Communications Report No. 1. It summarizes the 10-county study completed this summer on hog breeding, feeding, and management practices followed by sample farmers.

Our special thanks go to the farm advisers in the following counties who cooperated with this survey: McLean, Sangamon, Pike, DeKalb, Bureau, Henry, Knox, Macoupin, Whiteside, and Hancock. Farm advisers in those counties will receive separate county summaries for comparison with the total report.

Assistant farm advisers and state specialists who would like to have this report should send a request to 330 Mumford Hall.

Are We Tuned to the Times?...

Jet-propelled speed not only characterizes transportation, but also depicts changes in our methods of communication. Are we guilty of using "horse and buggy" methods with "jet age" radio?

As the result of a trend that's been developing for some time, so-called small-time radio has grown up. With local stations like WSDR at Sterling reporting 80 to 85 percent coverage in a two-county area, can we afford to give anything but our best effort to our radio programs?

Modern radio is like football--to be successful with either, you have to hit 'em fast and hard--and shake 'em up a little. Your opening statement has the same effect as the headline on the printed page. If you don't "hook" your listener in the first 20 seconds, chances are that you'll be "off the air." That one got away--with a mere flip of the dial.

It Says Here . . .

McHenry Dinner Meeting A Success...

Last week the agricultural organizations in McHenry county staged their first joint dinner meeting with representatives of county and area newspapers and radio stations. J. J. Feight, who represented our office, termed the affair "a tremendous success." So did Farm Adviser Ralph Burnett. J. J. also said the folks from the media were pleased and were already asking when the next one is scheduled.

Held at the McHenry County Country Club, the dinner attracted 41 people, including 15 press and radio representatives. After dinner, Burnett kicked off the formal program by explaining the functions of the various organizations represented. He also outlined the importance of agriculture to McHenry county.

Then everyone, including the editors, expressed their ideas on how the Extension Service might do a better job of serving the media.

Anyone interested in a more detailed summary of the meeting can write to Ralph for a copy of his report.

Christmas Poinsettias...

During the past few weeks, we have received tear sheets from several newspapers. They show the excellent recognition that they have been giving to 4-H Club work and the Extension Service. Included are the Metropolis News, Petersburg Observer, Belvidere Daily Republican, Wheaton Leader and Glen Ellyn News.

You Can't Do It All On Radio...

As the fellow said, "My mind's made up; don't confuse me with the facts." You can also confuse radio listeners with too many facts.

Give the audience one basic timely idea, regardless of whether you're broadcasting a spot announcement or a longer feature. End every program with a clincher or reminder.

How's Your Mileage...

If you have a sneaking feeling that you're not getting all the mileage possible out of your radio programs, a review of some radio DO's and DON'Ts might help:

DO

1. Use words listeners understand.
2. Use examples and comparisons familiar to listeners.
3. Develop skill in painting word pictures.
4. Use positive statements.
5. Use active verbs and a minimum of adjectives.
6. Judge your tape recordings critically.

DON'T

1. Bore the listener with details.
2. Bog down in involved sentences.
3. Use questions that are too long.
4. Use press copy without adapting it to radio.

12-15-60

It Says Here . . .

Merry



Christmas

From: All of Us
To: All of You

TENSION EDITORIAL OFFICE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE 330 MUMFORD HALL, URBANA

It Says Here . . .

Application of Gumperson's Law...

Once in a while when we are inclined to take ourselves too seriously, we run across bits of philosophy flavored with humor. This helps us keep our perspective.

We are indebted to Dr. O. Burr Ross for sharing a copy of a speech by William Gratwick, former president of the Continental Dorset Club. In this speech, Mr. Gratwick discussed "Gumperson's Law." Here are excerpts:

"Gumperson's First Law: The likelihood of something happening varies inversely with whether you want it to happen or not."

From this basic law, there are a number of corollaries.

Corollary #9: "A man's desire to make a change for the better varies inversely with the likelihood that the project will end in success. Or, stated another way--A bad situation is made worse in inverse ratio to the number of good intentions involved."

Corollary #16: "When something goes wrong, the ability to rise above it varies inversely with the magnitude of the calamity."

Corollary #11: "The degree of elation following an achievement varies inversely with the value of the achievement."

Corollary #32: "The likelihood of noticing that what you have been striving for is of no consequence varies inversely with the length of the striving time involved."

Corollary #61: "The acceptance of a new idea by a group varies inversely with the need of the group for it."

Annual Visits Pay Dividends...

LaSalle County Farm Adviser Fred Painter has many contacts during the year with his county newspapers and radio stations. But each year he makes a formal call to keep in touch with his news outlets and to discuss mutual problems.

Several weeks ago, Harold Guither accompanied him when he visited three daily newspapers and three radio stations. Here's a capsule summary of what they found out:

The papers and radio stations both like the recently-started weekly news service that reports local conditions and events. Short items are especially needed by radio stations because their news broadcasts are short and time is limited.

Because of the small proportion of farm readers compared to urban readers, Extension workers must constantly look for some news stories interesting to nonfarm residents.

"Making News Stories Work for You"...

You'll find something of value in the new Federal Extension Service publication, "Making News Stories Work for You."

Designed as a "guide for extension workers," the publication brings together advice and practical examples of what to do and what not to do when you sit down to write a news story.

All farm and home advisers and all assistants are receiving a copy in the packet mailing. You may want to include it as a part of your Communications Handbook.

12/29/60

imely Paragraphs...
FOR YOUR COUNTY INFORMATION PROGRAM

JANUARY 1960

EXCLUSIVE TO ADVISERS FROM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Changing economic conditions are causing many adjustments on Illinois farms. Old poultry houses are being turned into pig nurseries and old dairy and horse barns are being converted to feeding floors for cattle or hogs. Land use is being shifted to high-cash-value crops wherever practical. Good farm records are still one of the best tools a farmer has in deciding what changes are needed to meet these changing economic conditions. See your county farm adviser now about the farm record analysis programs offered in your county.

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Studies of farm records show that the farm capital structure is closely related to farm earnings. More farmers are using more capital in their businesses. A good farm record can be the most important tool a farmer has when he outlines his net worth and capacity to pay to a credit man. The Illinois Farm Business Record serves this need. It is available to all farmers through their local farm management associations. County farm advisers have all the details on this program.

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Farm leases should always be in writing. See your farm adviser for printed lease forms prepared by the University of Illinois. These forms will remind you to decide many important questions that might otherwise become problems.

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Another farming year is beginning. Fathers and sons are both a year older than they were at this time last year. Fathers may be less able to carry on the farm business, while their sons should be more able. Father, have you talked with your son about a farm business agreement? Don't wait for him to speak first--he may be waiting for you.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

In experimental tests, feed has been ground and blown to a self-feeder 150 feet away for a total electricity cost of 12 cents a ton. Electric power costing 2 cents a kilowatt hour will automatically blend and grind common feed rations for about 1/2 cent per 100 pounds.

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A 100-foot 4-inch auger, driven at 250 revolutions per minute with a 1/2 horsepower motor, will move 1 ton of ground feed an hour. This is the normal output of 2-horsepower automatic grinders now on the market.

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Ground feed can be cascaded from one auger to the next, making it possible to send the feed as far as necessary by using more units. This also makes it possible to turn corners at the cascading point. A simple feed switch or pressure switch can be used to save time and labor in an automatic feeding system, especially where feed goes into bins or to wagons. This is one of the things that makes the system automatic.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

If you have a ewe flock that will lamb in January, February or March, the ewes should be receiving a pound of grain per head daily these days. This extra energy will help prevent pre-lambing paralysis.

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If you are interested in mixing your swine supplements and have had trouble in getting the necessary vitamins and antibiotics, see your farm adviser. He has information on where to get them.

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Have you wondered how long you can feed silage to steer calves and still get satisfactory gains? In a trial currently under way at the University of Illinois,

some calves will receive a full feed of silage for more than 300 days. These results will be reported at Cattle Feeders' Day next fall.

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External parasites can be a real problem on beef cattle and hogs during the winter. If your livestock have lice, ask your farm adviser for control recommendations.

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Research has shown that overfat brood sows farrow and raise smaller litters than sows that are not so fat. Hand-feeding sows will cut feed costs and also let the producer know when his sows are getting too fat.

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Are you ready for those late winter pigs? Farrowing stalls, heat lamps or other extra heat is almost a must for saving pigs in cold weather.

DAIRY SCIENCE

It is usually poor economy to feed dairy cattle more protein than they actually need. However, a surplus of protein is not harmful. If they receive plenty of high-energy feed that provides the required minerals and vitamins, they will perform satisfactorily on a 22 to 24 percent protein feed, even if they need only a 12 to 14 percent protein feed. Cows have been fed for long periods on cottonseed meal as the only concentrate.

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A recent study of records from 43 Wisconsin herds showed that underfeeding one pound of the required total digestible nutrients caused a 12-pound decrease in butterfat per cow annually. This means that only well-fed cows produce enough to make a satisfactory profit for their owners. Here's an economical way to make sure your cows get enough feed nutrients: Keep good-quality roughage before them at all

times, and feed grain according to each cow's production level. Cows will eat 2 to 2 1/2 pounds of hay or hay equivalent daily for every one hundred pounds of body weight. Some cows will consume as much as 3 or more pounds of high-quality roughage daily per hundred pounds of body weight if it's fed free choice.

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A survey involving 1,783 single-born Holstein calves in northern Illinois that resulted from artificial insemination showed a sex ratio of 106 males to every 100 females born. The same ratio of 106 males to 100 females was found in a Swedish survey involving 125,000 calves that resulted from natural mating.

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New Mexico research workers could not detect any penicillin in milk from cows fed 88.9 milligrams (86,700 International Units) or less of penicillin daily. However, when the feeding level was increased to 277.8 milligrams of penicillin daily, small amounts could be detected in the milk.

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Defective milking equipment may cause nonspecific mastitis in the dairy herd. Pulsators that are not working properly, old or damaged inflations and improper vacuum are only a few of the items that may cause trouble. Unless milking machines are kept in top working condition, other mastitis control programs are destined to fail.

POULTRY

Illinois is a leading poultry state. In 1958 it ranked fifth in number of eggs produced and number of chickens raised.

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Do you know whether your laying flock is profitable? There's only one way to find out: Keep records! If you aren't keeping records, it's time to start.

Record all expenses and income. Then summarize and analyze them to determine strong and weak points. Study your findings and know where you're going.

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A boost in egg consumption would boost poultrymen's income. Encourage better breakfasts and wider use of eggs by pointing out their outstanding nutritional value. Contrary to publicity relating egg consumption to heart trouble, experimental investigations indicate that eggs are a health-giving food. They are not a major factor in causing heart problems.

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Hens subjected to high day-time temperatures and low night-time temperatures lay more eggs than hens exposed to consistently high or low temperatures. Hens perform best within a range of 55 to 70° F. Insulate the walls and ceiling of your laying house for protection against severe temperatures.

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During the winter, rats leave their summer haunts and seek the warmth and feed in farm buildings. Don't let them eat up your egg profits. Place an accepted rat poison in bait stations in feed rooms, by waterers and near dropping pits. Replenish the bait every day. If necessary, move the bait stations. Whatever you do, don't board rats!

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Have you noticed some tail-picking in your laying flock? Or blood smears on eggs? If so, serious picking and cannibalism may break out at any time. Don't let it! The flock will become nervous and irritable, production may drop and death losses will occur. Stop it by debeaking. Remove half of the upper beak, and blunt the lower beak. Debeaking has the added advantage of decreasing feed wastage, too.

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Don't let dust reduce the efficiency of your laying flock. For best results, clean the windows and light bulbs in the laying house periodically.

SAFETY

How long do you think you will live?

Here's how you can determine it approximately: First, subtract your present age from 80. Multiply the remainder by 7. Then divide that answer by 10. According to life insurance actuarial tables, this system will give you a pretty good idea of how much longer you will live.

Of course, you can forget about the whole thing if you're a careless worker or driver. When you divide your life expectancy by an accident, you may end up with a zero.

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When you weld, cut, solder or use any type of flame or heat, make sure there are no combustibles in the area. Remember that sparks from cutting equipment can travel 30 feet or more.

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Make sure that all power tools are grounded. This is done automatically when three-prong plugs are inserted. On tools with a standard two-prong plug, the cord may have a built-in third wire with a clip. Attach this clip firmly to a suitable ground before inserting the plug. If there isn't a third wire, ground the tool by attaching one end of a wire to the metal frame of the tool and the other to a suitable ground.

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When lifting heavy objects, keep your back straight. Bend over at the hips so that you are over the load. The object is to lift with your leg muscles and not with the weaker back muscles.

Do not lift awkward or especially heavy material by yourself. Get someone to help you.

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Place straight ladders so that the distance from the ladder's base to the wall is one-fourth the length of the ladder. For example, a 12-foot ladder should be three feet from the wall at the base. Don't over-reach. Move your ladder as your work progresses.

VETERINARY MEDICINE

University of Illinois veterinarians do not recommend ringing pigs when atrophic rhinitis is present. This practice favors the entrance of infection into nose tissues through the puncture.

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Swine dysentery is spread through the sale and purchase of diseased or exposed animals, say University of Illinois veterinarians. They recommend isolating swine brought to the farm for two to three weeks before introducing them into a herd.

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Disinfecting the navel and feeding colostral milk for at least 24 hours after birth are two important ways of preventing calf scours, according to University of Illinois veterinarians.

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When animals are affected with swine influenza, isolate them in clean quarters and feed them sparingly. After they recover, bring them back gradually to full feed. There is no specific treatment for the virus infection involved in influenza, but secondary bacterial infections may be arrested by using certain antibiotics which the veterinarian may prescribe.

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Automobile brakes can help a driver avoid trouble, but cannot prevent trouble. Brucellosis vaccinations act in almost the same way. University of Illinois veterinarians say that in most cases vaccination builds up the animal's resistance to infection. It helps to slow down and control the spread of disease, but doesn't completely prevent or eradicate it.

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Isolate swine with virus pneumonia from healthy stock, or dispose of the infected animals. For breeding stock, keep only pigs from litters where there has been no coughing or diarrhea.

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mely Paragraphs...
FOR YOUR COUNTY INFORMATION PROGRAM
FEBRUARY 1960
CLUSIVE TO ADVISERS FROM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Stand-by generating equipment must be connected to the wiring system on your farm with a double-pole, double-throw switch. This switch prevents the stand-by generator from burning out in case the power comes back on the line. It also prevents the generating equipment from overloading by trying to supply power back through the high-line transformer in reverse.

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The transformer will convert the low voltage back into high voltage from the stand-by equipment, presenting a hazard to linemen and others who might come into contact with fallen wires. See your power supplier for details of a stand-by generator installation.

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About 9 out of 10 power failures in sleet storms are caused by tree limbs that could have been removed by trimming. Are you sure you are not responsibile for power failures because you failed to give the power supplier permission to cut a few limbs off your trees?

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In case of power failure, don't forget that your car has a good heater to keep you warm and a radio to entertain you while you wait for repairs. There are also devices to plug into the cigar lighter outlet that will warm the baby's bottle, cook wieners or brew a cup of coffee.

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Learn now how to use your electric welder and shop equipment to repair machinery for the coming season.

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During the winter, check all mechanical and electrical equipment on your farm. Many Illinois farms have more than 20 electric motors. It's good management to clean and lubricate them and see that the equipment they operate is properly adjusted.

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Many farms have more than doubled their consumption of electric power, but few have doubled their wiring capacity since it was installed. Often you can increase your wiring capacity but still use present wiring by providing another service entrance and separate circuits. In other words, you don't need to tear out all the old wiring if it is safe and in good condition.

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If the generator on your tractor can't keep the battery charged, you are headed for trouble this winter. Have a mechanic check your battery and generator now. If an engine will not be used all winter, store the battery in a cool, dry place.

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For each gallon of fuel you burn in your car, truck, or tractor, one gallon of water is formed. To prevent this water from condensing in the crankcase, avoid low-temperature operation. Use radiator shutters, if necessary, to keep the engine temperature up.

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Batteries will discharge even if they are not in use. Since a discharged battery will freeze at 19° F., recharge batteries on idle combines and tractors now.

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Change crankcase oil more often in winter than in summer. Odd jobs around the farmstead do not get the tractor warmed up, and the oil becomes contaminated with unburned fuel, water and acid.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Is alfalfa meal necessary in drylot hog rations? While alfalfa meal is a good source of B vitamins and vitamin A, the commercial premixes are usually a cheaper source. Also, the fiber in alfalfa meal may tend to slow gains. If you are mixing your own rations, your county farm adviser can give you sources of these vitamin premixes.

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Livestock gain best during the winter when they have plenty of clean, warm water and dry, draft-free and dust-free housing.

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Pigs farrowed in February and March require extra care because of cold weather and confinement. Provide clean quarters at farrowing time. Also provide additional heat if possible. Farrowing crates or stalls are the best way to reduce death loss, but guard rails also help.

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Provide a source of iron so that pigs will not become anemic. Above all, watch your pigs closely so that you can spot problems early and correct them before losses are large. Large litters are necessary for profitable hog operations. With present prices, litter size may be the difference between profit and loss.

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If you are not using farrowing stalls, you are certainly missing out on a good way to save that extra pig or two in each litter. Your farm adviser can supply plans for farrowing stalls if you want to build your own.

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A three-year study of "all-in-one" silage at the University of Illinois has shown very satisfactory results. The calves adjusted rapidly to the all-in-one silage, and spoilage was negligible in all tests. Combining fresh-cut alfalfa and

corn at ensiling time provides a full feed of corn and enough legume to meet protein requirements and gives good results in fattening cattle. The ease of feeding the all-in-one silage and the reduction in labor and time have made this a favorable system for fattening cattle.

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If you are looking for simple but adequate rations for hogs, ask your farm adviser for the leaflet, "Your 1960 Hog Business."

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For the latest information regarding beef cattle, ask your farm adviser for a copy of the "1960 Beef Cattle Feeding Suggestions." It contains information that will help you plan your rations, as well as suggestions for managing beef herds.

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Disease control is probably the number one problem in confinement hog-raising systems. If you buy feeder pigs, make every effort to see that they are healthy and thrifty. Strict sanitation is a must. Have a hospital pen available and, at the first sign, separate unthrifty pigs from healthy pigs.

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Castrate and dock lambs when they are one or two weeks old. Begin creep-feeding at the same time. Push early lambs for the high May and June markets.

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Fix a creep so that pigs can get some feed away from the sow when they are a week to 10 days old. The earlier you can get pigs started to eating, the better. A pig makes better use of its feed before weaning than at any other time. In bad weather, pigs will eat twice as much feed from the creep inside a building as from the outside.

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Hogs on complete rations usually gain a little faster than hogs getting corn and supplement free choice. Using complete rations also allows a producer to control supplement consumption and make maximum use of soybean meal in hog rations. However, unless hogs overeat when supplement is offered free choice, free-choice rations are usually a little more economical than complete rations.

DAIRY SCIENCE

University of Wisconsin research workers report that the larger heifers in a group of 141 two-year-old Holsteins were the best producers. They found a high correlation between the heifers' weight at calving time and their production the first 90 days of lactation. They also found that the largest heifers at calving time were also larger than their stable mates when they were six months old.

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Cows that have received a milk let-down stimulus, such as udder washing or massaging, and are allowed to stand for a while before milking may leave the barn only partly milked. This is most serious in the latter part of lactation. At this time there may not be enough tension on the tissues to help force milk from the udder. In most cases best results are obtained by attaching the milk machine within about one minute after stimulating the cow.

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Keep heifer calves that are to be raised for herd replacements separated after feeding milk until the urge to nurse has passed. Never feed heifers milk from cows with mastitis. Nursing may break the seal on the end of the teats, allowing mastitis-producing germs to enter the udder. Badly shaped udders or even blind quarters may result.

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A grade Ayrshire cow at the Maryland Experiment Station is safe in calf after having been artificially inseminated with dried sperm. The technique of drying

the sperm cells used in this experiment was developed by research workers at the Naval Medical Research Institute at Bethesda, Maryland. They suspended the cells in nylon gauze before subjecting them to rapid evaporation under vacuum.

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Milking machine pulsators that are not working properly can upset cows, causing a reduction in milk production. They may also injure the delicate udder and teat tissue. Check pulsators regularly to keep them clean and working at top efficiency. Operating pulsators faster than is recommended by the manufacturer slows down milking and may injure the teats.

POULTRY

Chickens drink less water when it is either too hot or too cold. A temperature of 55° F. appears to be ideal. If the water is warmer, birds drink less. If it's colder, they drink even less - as much as 25 percent less when ice crystals form. So it's important to keep water from freezing while the weather is cold.

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Good light in the egg-handling room is important for accuracy and ease of work. Adequate light makes it easier to detect dirt and cracks and to keep the room clean.

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Dryness and heat in egg-rooms are the chief causes of egg deterioration in winter, especially when open basements are used for storage. If you store eggs in the basement, keep them in a separate room, insulate the walls and keep the temperature around 55° F. and the humidity at about 75 to 80 percent. Spraying the eggs with oil will help to offset heat and dryness.

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Before your baby chicks arrive, clean the brooder house thoroughly with lye water, a steam cleaner or a pressure sprayer. Let the house dry out and disinfect

the interior thoroughly. Then fill feeders and waterers and regulate the brooder temperature before the chicks arrive.

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What kind of chicks are you buying? Are they for eggs or for meat? Make it one or the other. Today's competition doesn't leave room for an in-between bird. Leghorn-type hybrids and Leghorn strain-crosses have generally been most suitable for egg production in Illinois.

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When you buy chicks, do you buy price or quality? Good chicks usually cost more, but they usually return more too. So don't buy price - as baby chick cost influences egg production cost very little.

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It's important to stir poultry litter during cold, humid weather. Loose litter has a greater evaporation surface and will help to keep the house dryer. Replace the litter around feeders and waterers to maintain proper sanitation.

SAFETY

Knowledge is what you learn from others. Wisdom is what you teach yourself. You need both to live and drive safely.

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Here is the professional code for defensive driving:

1. Avoid preventable accidents.

2. Observe the traffic rules and regulations in the area where you are driving.

3. Watch for the illegal acts and errors of other drivers that can cause accidents.

4. Adjust driving to special hazards of roadway, weather, traffic, etc.

5. Know the rules of the right-of-way and when to yield the right-of-way.

6. Have confidence.

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Seat belts are a safety measure to prevent serious injury after a collision occurs. While not perfect, they are the most practical device available to keep from being ejected, badly injured or killed. To avoid being killed or injured, do not have a crash. Seat belts are no substitute for common sense. But if you crash in spite of all you can do to avoid it, you'll be glad your seat belt is fastened.

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Caution is not cowardly. Carelessness is not courage.

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On a cold morning you may be tempted to warm up the engine of your car, truck or tractor in a closed garage or shed. Don't do it!! Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas that kills quickly and without warning. Fresh air is the one sure safeguard against it. Always open the garage or shed doors before starting the motor.

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Never drive with all the windows of your car or truck closed.

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Some farm animals are vicious by nature. Just to be on the safe side, always approach them carefully. A friendly word may save you from being kicked or trampled.

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Mastitis treatment without good milking and herd management practices is a weak step toward controlling mastitis. Infected cows can be treated with various drug preparations, but such treatment does not prevent reinfection in poorly managed herds.

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Careless use of mastitis medication usually does more harm than good. It may lead to more serious infection by introducing other bacteria into the udder.

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University of Illinois veterinarians say that for best results treatment for mastitis must be combined with good management. Good management includes using the right milking technique, examining each cow's milk daily with a strip cup, removing obstacles that might injure the cow's udders and milking infected cows last.

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Mastitis shows up most clearly in acute cases when the udder becomes inflamed and the milk is watery and contains flakes. However, cows may have chronic mastitis, which often goes unnoticed until the disease becomes advanced. University of Illinois veterinarians report that in these cases a laboratory test is often necessary to detect early infection.

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Mastitis treatment cannot have lasting benefit to a dairyman unless strict prevention measures are used. University of Illinois veterinarians say there is no known treatment that repairs udder damage caused by mastitis. And there is no known treatment to increase the resistance of treated animals to reinfection.

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mely Paragraphs...
FOR YOUR COUNTY INFORMATION PROGRAM

APRIL 1960

XCLUSIVE TO ADVISERS . FROM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

First-mortgage interest rates are now generally twice as high as net returns on farm land at current prices. This means that a buyer with a 50 percent equity must take the net returns from his total investment to pay the interest on his indebtedness. Payments on principal, if any, under these conditions must come from sources other than the return to land.

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The 18th census of population and housing will begin on April 1. The Constitution provides for the census as the means of apportioning the number of seats each state holds in Congress.

Each household will receive a form to fill out before the enumerator visits them. This form will assist in getting complete coverage and speeding up the census. It is easy to follow and will include a sample. One of every four homes will be selected to provide more detailed information. These households will be notified by the census enumerator when he calls.

The law requires that all census questions be answered completely and accurately. The law further guarantees that the information furnished will be treated as confidential and that these reports cannot be used for purposes of taxation, investigation or regulation.

Information from this census is valuable in understanding trends and forecasting future needs in business, agriculture, housing, education and so forth.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Have you checked your electric equipment recently? To keep it in good order, check for cleanliness, lubrication and good wiring connections.

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New portable equipment, such as drills and saws, are equipped with a three-pronged plug. This plug needs a receptacle equipped with a third wire for grounding. When installing any new outlets, consider adding this third wire to make portable tools completely safe.

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A pressure switch is a simple device for controlling automatic feed preparation equipment or signalling the amount of feed in a bin. The switch may be a mercury tube or a microswitch operated by an enclosed or protected flap.

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Open-auger bunk feeders can be dangerous. The bunk needs guard rails so that animals cannot knock each other into the open auger.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Alfalfa meal is not needed in a drylot hog ration. Although it is an excellent source of minerals, vitamins and protein, you can get an adequate ration by using synthetic vitamins and antibiotics along with other sources of protein, energy and minerals. This type of ration may, and frequently does, cost less than one containing alfalfa meal. For more information, see the extension leaflet, "Your 1960 Hog Business," which is available at your farm adviser's office.

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Disease control is probably the number one problem in confinement systems of raising hogs. If you buy feeder pigs, make every effort to see that they are healthy and thrifty. Strict sanitation is a must. Have a hospital pen, and at the first sign of sickness separate unthrifty pigs from healthy pigs.

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Ask your farm adviser for the leaflet, "1960 Beef Cattle Feeding Suggestions." It contains the latest information on developments in beef cattle feeding, such as stilbestrol, antibiotics, urea and so forth.

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How much protein supplement are your growing-fattening pigs eating? From 50 pounds to market weight, pigs should eat about 1/2 pound of a 36 to 40 percent supplement daily if they are on pasture. If they are in drylot, they will need twice that amount.

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Good legume pasture can help to cut the feed bill of pregnant sows. In tests at the University of Illinois, sows getting 2.5 pounds of corn per head daily on good legume pastures produced litters equal to those from sows getting more grain and some protein supplement. Minerals were fed free choice in all lots.

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If you are going to choose replacement gilts from early spring pigs, remove them from the fattening lot when they weigh 125 to 150 pounds. Tests show that gilts receiving a limited feed produce larger litters than gilts left on a fattening ration too long. Sorting out replacement gilts also helps to lower feed costs.

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Many Illinois swine producers are feeding complete rations to growing-fattening hogs from weaning to market. Advantages of this program are slightly faster and more uniform gains and control of protein supplement consumption. However, cost of gain often favors a free-choice ration, particularly after pigs weigh 100 pounds. Before deciding to use a complete mixed ration or a free-choice ration, consider volume, source of feeds and available equipment or cost of such equipment and labor that you can use in your swine business.

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If you have a beef cow herd, the best 10 to 15 percent of the cows are probably producing calves that weigh 125 to 150 pounds more at weaning time than those from the poorest 10 to 15 percent. Do you know which cows are doing the best job for you? If you want to take a closer look at how your cows are performing, ask your farm adviser about the Illinois Beef Performance Testing Project.

DAIRY SCIENCE

Grinding farm grains for dairy cows usually increases their feeding value by 15 to 20 percent. For best results, grind grains to a medium fineness. Rolled or crushed grains have about the same feeding value as ground grains.

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Either ground shelled corn or ground ear corn works successfully in dairy rations. In general, it will not pay to shell ear corn before grinding it. However, if shelled corn is available on the farm, it can be used in the dairy ration. It contains about 9 percent total protein and 77 percent TDN compared with 8 percent total protein and 71 percent TDN for corn and cob meal.

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Don't grind hay for dairy cattle. Grinding may considerably reduce its digestibility.

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Pregnancy usually does not affect the milk yield of dairy cows until about the fifth month. After this time, production tends to go down as lactation advances. For this reason, separate classifications are provided for cows that meet calving requirements on Advanced Registry test.

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Dairy calves and heifers can stand a great deal of cold weather if they are protected from drafts and excessive moisture. Small buildings separated from

the main dairy barn are usually better places for calves than barns housing mature cows. Regardless of where the animals are housed, good ventilation is a must.

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A shortage of hay and silage may tempt you to turn your cows onto pasture too soon in the spring. Pasturing too soon can cause a low pasture yield all summer. Experience shows that for best results pasture grasses should be at least six inches high before being grazed.

FARM MANAGEMENT

Records on 24 droves of good-to-choice feeder calves that were bought in 1958 and sold in 1959 shows an average return of $17.11 per head above feed cost. This return is about $24 per head below the average for the past four years. Experience of this past year indicates that most cattle feeders following a steer-calf program received market prices for their grain and roughage and enough cash to cover other cash costs, including interest on money borrowed to buy the cattle. The average feeder got little or no return for labor and other fixed costs.

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A 220-acre farm producing products valued at $9,200 (total receipts less purchased feed and livestock) in the 1950-1953 period would need $12,500 of farm production today to get the same net return. Increasing total farm receipts in a period when prices for farm products are declining places new stress on the farm plan. Obviously the existing acres or units of livestock must produce more per unit or the number of acres and livestock must increase if net earnings are to be maintained. High-cost operators may find it profitable to cut cost as long as any decrease in the value of the output is less than the decrease in cost.

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These changes can cause labor, capital or management shortages that were unheard of in grandfather's day. It takes good farm records to find the weak spots in the business. These records and record analysis services are available at moderate cost in your county. See your farm adviser for the details.

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By necessity, farmers are getting more cost-conscious. When actual cost data are not available for a particular situation, rules of thumb or short-cut methods of figuring costs are useful.

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The annual cost of owning and using a machine includes ownership and operational costs. The annual ownership cost, depreciation, interest, repairs, insurance, and taxes, normally amount to 15 to 20 percent of the new cost of the machine. When the operational costs and the annual ownership cost per acre exceed the going custom rate per acre, the desirability of owning the machine may be questioned.

SAFETY

Do your springtime chores keep you out after dark? If they do, and you have to move equipment on the highway at dusk or after dark, be sure that it is well lighted so that oncoming motorists can see it. Make sure you have two red tail lamps or at least one lamp and two reflectors visible from the rear. Know and obey the local laws regarding moving equipment on the highway at night. You have to be seen to be safe.

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When you have to refuel your tractor, remember these safety suggestions: Be sure to shut off the tractor. Let it cool a few minutes. Leave some room for

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expansion in the fuel tank. If you should overfill the tank, wait at least 15 minutes before starting the motor. Follow these rules and avoid serious accidents.

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Careless smoking habits and the misuse of matches are by far the leading causes of fire. Practice careful smoking habits. Don't smoke in the barn, in bed or near flammable liquids. Post "No Smoking" signs in appropriate places. Be careful--don't smoke yourself to death.

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Are farmers worse drivers than city folk? Nobody's sure yet, but statistics so far indicate that about one farmer in 1,000 was involved in a fatal motor vehicle accident in 1958. The national rate for other drivers was about one in 1,500. Nothing to be proud of, is it? When you're on the highway with farm equipment, the truck or the car, drive with care.

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No doubt you've had equipment break down when you've almost finished the day's work in the field. The important question is what to do about it. Do you just let impulse take over and try to hurry. Or do you realize that hurry only breeds accidents--and so do the repair job coolly and safely? We urge you to take time to do the job the right way--the safe way.

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Use antibiotics only when a disease is caused by an organism against which a particular antibictic is known to be effective. No antibiotic is equally effective against all disease bacteria. In fact, antibiotics in general are largely ineffective against viruses and molds. This means that an accurate diagnosis is most important.

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All calves in blackleg areas should be vaccinated when three or four months old, advise University of Illinois veterinarians. Spore-farming germs, which can live in the ground for years, cause blackleg. These germs may enter an animal's body through small cuts and punctures in the skin, or they may be picked up through grazing.

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Cattle bloat usually occurs after a sudden change from a dry ration to green pasture. Cattlemen may prevent bloat by feeding dry hay or straw in the morning before turning animals out to graze.

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Taking X-rays of calves between one and ten days old is one of the best ways to spot dwarf carriers, report University of Illinois veterinarians. X-rays show spinal abnormalities that characterize many animals carrying dwarf genes. X-rays of the long bones and of certain head bones are also useful in detecting dwarf carriers.

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Crowding too many lambs and ewes into one lot may cause heavy losses from coccidiosis. Lambs under three months of age are most frequently and seriously affected by this disease.

mely Paragraphs...
FOR YOUR COUNTY INFORMATION PROGRAM

M A Y, 1960

XCLUSIVE TO ADVISERS . . FROM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

A 240-acre tenant-operated grain farm is no longer large enough to provide a satisfactory income for most operators. It is necessary to supplement the income from sources other than grain. Some examples include livestock feeding, custom work with machinery and off-farm employment.

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Some farmers operate at below-average efficiency in producing livestock. Sometimes they seek to recover net earning losses by increasing volume. If they do, they may run the risk of even greater losses if prices drop further. Volume does not guarantee efficiency.

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Sometimes you can reduce costs without reducing output. For example, shopping around to find better buys.

Sometimes it will pay to reduce costs even though you will also reduce output. Why? Your saving in cost will be greater than your loss in output. For example, reducing the rate of feeding grain to dairy cows when the value of the grain saved per day is more than the value of the milk lost.

Sometimes increased costs will be more than offset by an even greater increase in the output. For example, the application of needed fertilizer will increase costs but can give you an even greater increase in value of output.

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The cost of owning and operating a tractor on your farm depends mainly on the number of hours you use it and on the tractor size. Cost studies show a three-plow or larger gas-operated tractor costs $1.57 an hour to own and operate when used

less than 500 hours. When used over 500 hours, it costs $1.17 an hour. One-third of this cost was fixed costs. A two-three-plow tractor used less than 500 hours also costs $1.17 an hour.

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1959 soybeans taken over by the Commodity Credit Corporation at the end of May will be offered for sale at not less than 20 cents a bushel above the 1959 support price for No. 2 soybeans. These supports range from $1.86 to $1.92 a bushel in Illinois.

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The 1960 price supports for soybeans, oats, barley and grain sorghums will be at least as high as those for 1959 crops. The minimum price support for corn will be at the national rate of $1.06. This is six cents a bushel below 1959 supports.

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May and June are a good time to take stock of your grain storage situation. Government payments for resealing corn on farms may help to pay the bill for modernizing farm grain storage facilities.

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U. S. consumers are now spending about 21 percent of their disposable incomes (incomes after taxes) for food. In 1947 consumers spent 27 percent of their disposable income for food.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Erosion around buildings can cause serious foundation trouble. Check your buildings this spring. Plan to regrade and add gutters and downspouts at problem spots.

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Plan early for those new buildings to be erected in 1960. The University of Illinois has a comprehensive plan service where you can get blueprints. Take advantage of these engineered plans to get a more useful building.

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It is often possible to make an old horse barn into a satisfactory cattle shed by opening a side wall and removing stalls and mangers.

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Fuel from a leaking oil tank may spoil the taste of well water for several years. Locate fuel oil storage at least 75 feet from the water supply. Inspect your storages periodically to be sure this sort of mild disaster does not happen to you.

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Magnetic starters make remote control of electric motors by push-button or feed-pressure switches easy to accomplish.

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Mechanical feed metering becomes successful as a continuous-flow system is developed, just as hot and cold water are blended in a shower bath.

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Silo unloaders that may be left idle for the summer months need to be hoisted up a few feet, cleaned, inspected, adjusted, lubricated and protected from rust. A piece of plastic tied over the motors will help to keep out dirt and moisture while motors are not in use.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Push early lambs for the seasonally high markets in June. In recent years an 85- to 90-pound choice lamb marketed in June has been worth as much as a 100-pound choice lamb marketed in September, a 105-pound lamb in October and a 115-pound lamb in November or December.

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Guard against internal parasites in your ewe flock. Add 1 part phenothiazine to 10 or 12 parts salt. Offer it free choice. Drench the ewes about a week before placing them on pasture. Be sure to follow the instructions for mixing and using the drench.

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Good legume pasture can help to cut the feed bill of pregnant sows. In University of Illinois tests, sows getting 2.5 pounds of corn per head daily on good legume pastures produced litters equal to those from sows getting more grain and some protein supplement. Minerals were fed free choice in all lots.

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Should you creep-feed the calves from your cow herd? If you are going to sell them this fall, or intend to full-feed them this coming winter, it will probably pay to creep-feed. In trials at the Dixon Springs Experiment Station, creep-fed calves weighed about 120 pounds more at weaning than non-creep-fed calves. This extra gain cost only about 18 cents a pound to produce.

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How can you tell how much urea is mixed in a protein supplement? The feed tag will state that "this supplement contains protein from non-protein sources," in other words, urea. Divide this figure by 2.6 to determine the percentage of urea in the supplement. Five percent is usually the maximum recommended figure. If supplements contain more than five percent of urea, it should be carefully mixed with the grain ration.

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Many Illinois swine producers are feeding complete rations to growing-fattening hogs from weaning age to market weight. Advantages of this program are slightly faster and more uniform gains and controlled protein supplement consumption. However, cost of gain often favors a free-choice ration, particularly after pigs

weigh 100 pounds. Before deciding to use a complete mixed ration or a free-choice ration, consider volume, source of feeds and available equipment or cost of such equipment and labor that you can use in your swine business.

DAIRY SCIENCE

Studies at the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station show that air-conditioning a 100-cow stall-type dairy barn prevented a 10 percent decline in milk production on days when the outside temperature was 80 degrees or more and the relative humidity was higher than 75 percent. In areas where the average daily temperature and relative humidity are excessive for 60 days or more, air-conditioned dairy shelters may be profitable.

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Several Holstein heifers in Pennsylvania weighed 1,200 pounds when they calved the first time at 28 months of age. These heifers produced 1,169 more pounds of milk and 84 more pounds of butterfat the first year than heifers weighing 800 pounds at first calving. The smaller heifers were only one month younger at calving time. They gave 7,875 pounds of milk and 297 pounds of butterfat. The 1,200-pound heifers produced 10,044 pounds of milk and 381 pounds of fat.

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Last year 142 dairy herds started on test in Illinois dairy herd improvement associations. Average production of these cows was 9,983 pounds of milk and 375 pounds of butterfat. This compares with an average production of 10,339 pounds of milk and 410 pounds of butterfat for 536 herds. These herds have had the advantage of dairy production records on each cow for at least 10 years. The latter group's higher production was largely responsible for more than $960 in increased income over feed costs last year.

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You can increase the forage produced on pastures at least 15 to 20 percent this summer with alternate or rotational grazing. Here is how it works: string electric fences across your pasture field to divide it into a series of small pastures. Move the cows to a new pasture each time the plot is grazed down. Some dairymen move their cows to new pasture growth each day. This intensive grazing plan allows you to obtain the largest amount of forage per acre.

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If you find it necessary to change "Bossy's" feed, do it gradually over a period of a few days. Dairy cows are creatures of habit. Any sudden change in feeding or managment tends to upset them. The result is usually lower milk production.

POULTRY

If you wash eggs, wash them correctly. Under proper handling, washing and holding procedures, washed eggs maintain their quality very well. But don't lose customers because of poor egg washing. Only one bad egg can cost you a customer.

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If you're ranging your chicks, keep the range clipped. The range crop will remain more succulent, there will be less trouble from predators, and wet grass will not bother the chickens when it rains.

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Reduce labor costs by using an automatic water system for pullets on range.

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Be alert for lice and mites on chickens. These pests multiply rapidly in spring weather. If not controlled they will retard chick growth and reduce egg production.

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As soon as you're finished with the brooding equipment, clean and store it for next season. Do necessary repair work before storing it if possible.

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If your laying house is not insulated, spring is a good time to insulate it. The house will be cooler this summer, and that means more eggs. It will also be warmer next winter, too, and that means less feed.

SAFETY

Stop right where you are and think! What would you do if you discovered a fire this very instant? Whatever your answer, chances are you'd flunk if it were a real fire just because you had never thought about it before. Remember this bit of fire prevention advice: The best time to fight a fire is before it ever starts. Don't give fire a place to start on your farm.

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What's the best safety advice for the use and handling of pesticides? It's right on the label. Read it, and then read it again until you understand it. Those labels have been inspected by experts in the field. Take their word for the proper use of each separate pesticide, and follow the directions. Keep them safely out of reach of children at all times.

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Farmers, you may not like to think about it, but a tractor P.T.O. can actually beat you to death if it catches you. Never use any P.T.O. machine without the shield in place. When using horsepower, use horse sense.

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The farmer who permits himself, his employees or members of his family to handle the farm machines of today without being properly instructed in safe operation methods, or without insisting that the guards and shields be used on all moving parts, is neglecting his duties as an employer or parent.

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When fire strikes a farm, the greatest enemy is comparative isolation from the local fire department and perhaps also from an adequate water supply. That is

why farm buildings are often completely destroyed when they catch fire. That's also why first-aid fire-fighting equipment is a must on every farm.

Put fire extinguishers in your home, barn, shop, tractor shed and garage and also on your tractor and power equipment. One extinguisher on hand is worth a dozen in the store.

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Vaccination is effective against blackleg. University of Illinois veterinarians recommend that all calves in a blackleg area be vaccinated when they are three or four months old.

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University of Illinois veterinarians say there is no cure for leukosis. They recommend that farmers keep chickens of different ages separated to prevent the spread of this disease from old hens to pullets or young chicks.

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Swine dysentary is spread through contaminated material in the hog lot. The best way a farmer can protect his herd against dysentery is to follow a sanitation program tailored to fit his individual farm.

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University of Illinois veterinarians recommend that farmers spray cattle before turning them out to pasture. This should eliminate external parasite carry-over into the following fall.

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Before turning young stock out to pasture, have a veterinarian check them for external parasites. Worm young animals with internal parasite infections.

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mely Paragraphs...
FOR YOUR COUNTY INFORMATION PROGRAM

JUNE 1960

CLUSIVE TO ADVISERS FROM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Farm record studies show that farmers tend to maintain cash income in years with low prices by selling off inventories and postponing the replacement of capital equipment.

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"Isn't it a chore to keep accurate farm records?" Wherever farmers get together this is a familiar question. Veteran record keepers say it is no chore if you have two things: an incentive and a system. There are now 5,500 Illinois farmers enrolled in 10 Farm Bureau Farm Management Associations. The program offered through these associations provides both the incentive and the system. See your University of Illinois farm adviser now about plans for next year's enrollment.

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Farm records can tell the story. Recently two hog farmers, same age, same location and same size of operation, compared notes on their 1959 records. Pigs per litter and feed conversion rates were identical; yet one producer had $1,500 more in returns. This difference was due to a low-cost soybean-oilmeal ration fortified with minerals, vitamins and antibiotics that one farm used. The other farm used a high-cost commercially prepared supplement. It pays to study the records.

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To make up for losses in net farm earnings due to changes in prices received and prices paid by farmers since 1952, most farm businesses need to make some adjustments. The changes may be in output per unit of input, choice of enterprise and volume of production. It is important to calculate their effect on net income before making them.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Success in using an electric lawn mower depends a great deal on knowing how to uncoil the cable without tangling it. You can store cable without tangling it by simply looping or folding it as a single strand into a five-gallon bucket. Be sure to mow back and forth across the lawn in straight lines and to work away from the outlet.

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Outdoor picnic lights on metal stands that can be stuck into the ground are convenient. Make sure that connections are tight and there is no broken insulation or frayed cord on the stand.

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Equipment used outside or in damp locations should be connected by a three-wire cord and plugged to an outlet with a grounding connection.

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Electric dehumidifying equipment needs to be thoroughly cleaned to allow moist air to circulate freely over coils. A small piece of plastic tubing (3/8 inch diameter) can be connected to some dehumidifiers and to the outside or the floor drain to drain off the condensed moisture.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Push early lambs for the seasonally high markets in June. In recent years an 85- to 90-pound choice lamb marketed in June has been worth as much as (1) a 100-pound choice lamb sold in September, (2) a 105-pound lamb in October or (3) a 115-pound lamb in November or December. During June and early July, choice lambs weighing from 85 to 110 pounds command top prices. Lambs weighing over 100 pounds usually sell at a discount later in the marketing season.

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If your lambs are big enough and fat enough, sell them now. Top out lambs if they weigh 90 pounds and will grade Choice. Remember the hazards of handling native lambs in hot, late summer months. These hazards are weather, pastures and parasites. They usually mean slower and more expensive gains, increased internal parasites and higher death losses. Because of these problems, lambs that grade Choice in June are likely to slip to Good by September.

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Do your pigs have plenty of shade to keep them cool this summer? Tests show that hogs kept at 100° temperatures required four times as much feed for one pound of gain as those at 70° temperature.

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If you have a beef cow herd, the top 10 to 15 percent of the cows are probably producing calves that weigh 125 to 150 pounds more at weaning time than calves from the lowest 10 to 15 percent. Do you know which cows are doing the best job for you? If you want to take a closer look at the performance of cows in your herd, ask your University of Illinois farm adviser about the Illinois Beef Performance Testing Project.

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If you are feeding beef cattle and are not using some corn silage, you are passing up an opportunity to get some economical gains. You still have time to plan on putting up corn silage this fall. University of Illinois research shows that more than a ton of beef can be produced from one acre of corn fed as silage. Costs average 12 cents per pound of gain on steer calves.

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If you are going to build or remodel some structures for beef cattle this summer, ask your farm adviser for the booklet, "Beef and Dairy Equipment Plans." It contains many good ideas you might use.

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If you are going to build or remodel some structures for swine this summer, ask your farm adviser for the booklet, "Swine Equipment Plans." It contains many good ideas you might use.

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At this time of year many livestock producers ask about the feeding value of oats. In University of Illinois trials, fattening steers received a ration in which oats replaced 6 pounds of shelled corn. These steers gained just as rapidly and cheaply as steers receiving corn as the only grain. In trials with growing-fattening hogs, it didn't pay to feed any oats unless 2 bushels of oats were worth considerably less than 1 bushel of shelled corn.

DAIRY SCIENCE

You need plenty of vacuum reserve at the proper level at every vacuum line petcock to operate a milking machine efficiently. Here is how you can check your installation: When all of the milker units are operating, use a vacuum gauge to read the inches of vacuum between the units and the pump. Then check the level at the petcock just beyond the units. The two readings should be the same. If they are not, you do not have enough vacuum reserve. A pump that's too small for the number of units usually causes the low reserve. A partly clogged line, leaky petcocks or leaks in the line may also cause it.

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You can check for partly clogged vacuum lines in milking machine by starting the vacuum pump and attaching a vacuum gauge to the petcock nearest the pump. Put it in such position that you can see it from the farthest petcock away from the pump. Open this petcock and move your thumb alternately on and off it. The arm of the gauge should move up and down as you move your thumb. If it doesn't, there is a block in the line. By moving from petcock to petcock, closer and closer to the pump, you can locate the block.

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The pounds of protein obtained from an acre of alfalfa hay land decrease rapidly with advancing maturity of the crop. In one experiment, 1,427 pounds of protein were obtained from an acre of alfalfa cut in the early-bloom stage. Only 997 pounds were obtained when the crop was cut in the full-bloom stage. It would take about 1,000 pounds of soybean meal to furnish the equivalent amount of protein that was left in the field due to leaf loss after hay was cut too late.

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A Texas experiment shows that feeding mature dairy cows 10 milligrams of aureomycin for every 100 pounds of body weight each day for 25 weeks had no effect on either production or body weight changes. No harmful effects of feeding aureomycin occurred, and there was no differences in resistance to mastitis, foot rot or other bacterial infections between cows receiving the antibiotic and cows not receiving it.

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A group of cows produced a total of 6,194 pounds of milk when fed alfalfa hay harvested from one acre and cut in the early-bloom stage. A similar group of cows produced 3,814 pounds of milk when fed alfalfa hay produced on one acre cut in the full-bloom stage.

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In a University of Illinois experiment, cows on alternate or rotational grazing produced about as much milk as similar cows fed chopped pasture forage in dry lot. Others produced as well on grass-legume silage during the summer as similar cows receiving green chopped pasture forage. All groups were fed grain according to their milk yield. They also received as much forage as they would eat.

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Because chicks are most susceptible to leukosis during the first two months of life, University of Illinois veterinarians recommend keeping birds of

different ages completely separated. This halts the spreading of disease from old hens to pullets or young chicks.

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University of Illinois veterinarians report that leukosis is responsible for most deaths in adult chickens.

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Farmers should always vaccinate their swine for hog cholera, advise University of Illinois veterinarians. In addition, the local veterinarian can tell swine producers whether erysipelas vaccination is also necessary in their area.

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Do not allow chicks recovering from infectious bronchitis to mingle with other chicks, warn University of Illinois veterinarians. Infectious bronchitis spreads rapidly. Birds that have apparently recovered can still carry the disease.

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Keep feeder lambs separated from ewes to help prevent stomach worm and coccidiosis infections.

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To prevent coccidiosis, University of Illinois veterinarians recommend that poultrymen use sanitary feeders and waterers and prevent overcrowding. They should also use a coccidiostat. The veterinarians stress keeping chicken houses dry and raising flocks on rotated ranges. Like most diseases, coccidiosis prefers damp, warm surroundings and limited sunlight.

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mely Paragraphs...
FOR YOUR COUNTY INFORMATION PROGRAM

JULY 1960

XCLUSIVE TO ADVISERS FROM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Farmers who are rushed for time might try renting equipment instead of buying. An extra tractor during the busy season may rent for $180 per month. But it could cost $500 or more per year to own it. Renting a new-type machine is also a good way to find out whether you think it's worth buying.

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Farm record analysis services help farmers keep their thinking straight. For example, when a farm product is used in another farm enterprise--such as corn for hogs--it can be charged to the hogs at market price or at the price of production, whichever is higher. In this way a farmer does not give himself a "good buy" on corn to show a profit on hogs.

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Time and money are two of the more important resources on most farms today. Good farm records help to tell which of each is best utilized.

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Some good definitions of management: "Management is the reasoned, thoughtful way of using resources to get what we desire." "Management is deciding what we wish to achieve and which resources we shall use to achieve it."

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On northern Illinois farms between 180 and 259 acres, the average cash balance from 1951 to 1959 ranged from $7,922 for hog farms to $5,884 for dairy farms. On farms of the same size in southern Illinois in the same period, the average ranged from $4,980 on grain farms to $4,160 on dairy farms. On rented farms, this cash balance is shared with the landowner. Other farm financial data are now

available in the 35th Farm Business Analysis Report issued by the Illinois Farm Bureau Farm Management Service and the University of Illinois College of Agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Air conditioners work best when the heat-exchange surface, or the radiator-like areas, are clean so that the filters are not obstructed.

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A separate circuit is desirable for any air-conditioning equipment. A 220-volt separate circuit is the best answer for one-ton capacity or larger.

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Don't forget the possibility of using the electric fan for summer-time comfort.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

It's time to remove early spring gilts from the fattening lot that will be kept as replacements. They don't need as much feed as full-fed hogs get. In addition to saving money, there is good evidence that limited-fed gilts make better sows than gilts that are full-fed after they weigh 150 to 175 pounds.

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One advantage of a concrete feeding floor is that it can be easily equipped with a sprinkling system to cool hogs during the summer. Studies by a midwest experiment station indicate that hogs sprinkled on hot days gain 1/4 pound faster than hogs with only shade to cool them.

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Do you have lots of grass and not enough cattle? Studies at the University of Illinois indicate that steer calves purchased in August or early September will gain 75 pounds or more each on late-summer and early-fall pasture before cornstalks are ready.

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Work at the University of Illinois has shown that steer calves implanted with stilbestrol in December use up the implants by the next July 1. If you have such calves and plan to market them during the next 5 months, you should probably feed stilbestrol rather than reimplant them. Side effects at marketing will be less noticeable if the stilbestrol is fed.

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Cattle Feeders' Day at the University of Illinois will be held September 2, 1960. An interesting program is being planned, so mark the date on your calendar now.

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It's boar-buying time for producers who are planning to raise late-winter and early-spring litters. Illinois breeders have been leaders in breed-testing programs and in boar-testing stations. When you buy a boar, no matter what breed or line, ask to see the records of production of the boar and his close relatives. Progressive seed-stock producers have records on animals they sell.

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Did you know that, about 8 times out of 10, the first calf a heifer raises indicates what kind of producer she will be for the rest of her life? Enrolling your beef cows in the production-testing project is a good way to check their production. Your farm adviser can give you the details on how the project works.

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Complete rations for hogs have the advantage of allowing you to control the consumption of protein supplement. Some people have also saved money by using supplements that contain more soybean meal than is possible if the supplement is to be fed free choice. Your farm adviser can give you details on these ideas.

DAIRY SCIENCE

Dairy cows have set a new record. Cows on test in Illinois dairy herd improvement associations broke through the 400-pound barrier last year. The 50,809 cows on test averaged 10,565 pounds of milk and 403 pounds of butterfat.

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For a cow to calve again within a year, she must conceive within 85 days after calving. Tennessee research workers have shown that each day beyond this time causes a daily loss of at least 20 pounds of milk for the average cow. At $4.00 per hundred pounds, this loss amounts to about 80 cents per cow per day.

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Diethylstilbestrol implants in mature dairy cows showed no significant effect on (1) the amount of milk produced, (2) persistency of production, (3) butterfat percentage, or (4) nonfat milk solids in South Dakota Experiment Station trials. There was, however, a slight tendency toward greater body weight gains in the implanted cows.

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If there are no trees or other shade in the pasture, an inexpensive sunshade will keep dairy cows more comfortable on hot midsummer days. The cows will repay you for your time and effort with a larger milk check. A good place for the artificial shade is near the water supply.

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In midsummer the tall, uneaten pasture grass becomes mature and low in feed value, and dairy cows don't like it. Uneaten weeds go to seed and use nutrients and moisture needed by the pasture plants. Mowing will significantly increase the carrying capacity of such pasture.

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The protein content of pasture plants dwindles rapidly as growth slows down and plants begin maturing. Although a mixture of farm grains alone will supplement early spring pasture, you should probably add some protein supplement to the grain ration throughout the summer. If you have good midsummer grass-legume pasture, use a grain mixture containing about 13 to 15 percent total protein.

SAFETY

When buying electrical cords or plugs, avoid plastic caps that break easily or that cannot be grasped firmly to pull them from a receptacle. Use only cords with asbestos insulation for heating appliances and heavy rubber-jacketed cords for motor-operated equipment.

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Drivers traveling 60 miles an hour on dry pavement need nearly the length of a football field to stop the car. Be sure you allow for that margin of safety when driving on open highways.

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Safe fuel storage means having your tanks at least 40 feet from buildings, in a shaded, well-ventilated place and locked or fastened so that youngsters can't open them. That kind of storage, plus a careful user who never refuels a hot or running tractor, usually adds up to no accidents.

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Cutting weeds, brush and other sight obstructions at intersections can make driving a lot safer. After corn has pollinated, you can even cut off the tassels on corn planted at corners.

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Before pulling into the field with your ensilage chopper, make sure all the guards are in place. Even a smooth shaft may catch clothing. Universal joints

or set screws that are too long are extremely dangerous. If you're using a power wagon unloader, make sure the shafts are shielded too.

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Coal tar pitch found in "clay pigeons" will kill hogs. To prevent this poisoning, keep trap shooters out of hog pastures. Contaminated pastures are dangerous to hogs for an indefinite time after "clay pigeons" are shot over them.

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Hot, humid days should remind poultry raisers to watch for signs of blue-comb disease, say University of Illinois veterinarians. In a typical outbreak, an apparently healthy flock shows a sudden drop in feed consumption; severe diarrhea; darkening of the head, comb or wattles; shriveling of the skin; loss of body weight; and a fever in the late stages.

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University of Illinois veterinarians say that, if pastures are short and dry, animals may eat plants they would otherwise avoid. Wilted wild cherry leaves, stunted Sudan grass and Johnsongrass may contain enough hydrocyanic acid to kill livestock in a short time.

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Keep cattle away from harvesting machinery. Equipment lubricated with grease that contains chlorinated naphthalenes can cause hyperkeratosis or "X-disease" of cattle.

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Fowl cholera can kill poultry before the birds show any signs of infection, according to University of Illinois veterinarians. However, in the less vicious form, flock owners may notice that chickens lose their appetites, develop diarrhea

and sit quietly with their necks pulled in, eyes closed, feathers ruffled and wing and tail feathers drooping. Their combs and wattles may swell.

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The green algae that often collect on the shorelines of ponds and slow-moving bodies of water may be very poisonous to cattle. The poisoning hazard increases when there has been no wind for several days to disturb the algae growth and disperse the poisonous material.

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mely Paragraphs...
FOR YOUR COUNTY INFORMATION PROGRAM

August, 1960

CLUSIVE TO ADVISERS . . . FROM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

A study of 80 hog farms operated at above-average efficiency in 1959 showed no change in net farm earnings as the quantity of feed fed increased. A similar study of farms operating at below-average efficiency showed that net earnings decreased as more feed was fed.

This study shows the need for top production efficiency in years with unfavorable feed-livestock price ratios.

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In a study of feeder-cattle systems covering the past 11 years, good-to-choice calves and light yearlings brought better returns over feed costs than other feeding systems. Calves and light yearlings returned at least enough to pay for feed and purchase price of the feeder for 10 of the 11 years, while short-fed heavy steers paid the cost for only seven of the 11 years.

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A study of rainfall and combining conditions in central Illinois indicates that in eight years out of ten there will be about 85 hours from July 5 to 24 to harvest small grain. About 65 hours will be available from September 20 to October 9 for harvesting soybeans.

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More efficient grain farms bring appreciably higher returns, according to a 1959 study of 209 northern Illinois grain farms on similar soils, each farm averaging 255 tillable acres. The 110 most efficient farms each had net earnings $4,000 greater than the average earnings of the 99 least efficient. The high-earning group received $1,000 management returns, while the low group was $3,000 short of paying all costs.

A similar study of 149 grain farms averaging 470 tillable acres in 1959 showed an average difference of $9,400 in net earnings between the top-efficient half and the low-efficient half. The high-earning half received $3,000 management returns, while the low-earning group was short $6,000.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Recheck tractor valve clearances 100 hours after valve overhaul. This will take care of the change in clearance that always occurs during the first few days of operation.

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If the air cleaner on your combine becomes plugged with chaff, reduce the trouble by using a dry-type cleaner above the oil-bath cleaner. Also try putting a frame covered with a sack around the air cleaner inlet.

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A pressure cap to prevent evaporation losses will pay off if your gasoline storage is located in the sun. Tests show that as much as 11 gallons evaporate in 30 days from typical farm storage tanks.

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When you do not need full horsepower, shift to a higher gear and throttle down for most economical tractor operation.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Illinois livestock feeders using molasses to increase palatability should remember that 6 1/2 gallons of molasses are required to equal the feeding value of one bushel of yellow corn.

Blackstrap (cane molasses) contains only 1 to 3 percent protein compared with 8.6 percent protein in yellow corn.

Most experiments with molasses shows no greater average daily gain or higher selling price for cattle receiving molasses than for those fattened without molasses.

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Why buy a "pig in a poke" when buying a boar? Buy only from producers who can furnish performance records on the boar or his near relatives. Progressive breeders are using breed certification programs, on-the-farm testing programs and boar testing stations to get this information. Commercial producers should note rate of gain, backfat probe and feed efficiency, plus carcass data on littermates.

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Owners of beef cow herds always have some cows that produce calves that are heavier than average, and some cows that never do. Putting your herd on performance test will help you identify the high-producing cows. This is important not only in helping cull your herd, but also in identifying the daughters of good producers to use as herd replacements. Your farm adviser can help you get started on this program.

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Do you have lots of pasture, and are you wondering how much calves will gain between August and November if you buy them now? Several years' work at the University of Illinois indicates that calves will gain 70 to 100 pounds if kept on good pastures for two or three months in the fall.

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Feeder lambs are tops when it comes to cleaning up cornfields--both before and after picking. Work at the University of Illinois has shown that if lambs are run in the cornfield before picking to clean up weeds, grass and lower leaves and then after picking to clean up wasted grain, their gains are worth $10 to $30 per acre of corn pastured.

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Pinkeye is an infectious disease and can spread quickly in a herd. Eye irritation caused by flies seems to make an animal more susceptible to this disease.

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Show animals should not be returned to the herd until they have passed a 30-day quarantine and health check, say University of Illinois veterinarians.

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Premature calves of cows infected with brucellosis or leptospirosis may live, but are usually carriers of the disease.

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Poisonous woodland plants take their heaviest toll from late summer until the end of the pasture season. In dry seasons especially, lack of grass causes animals to eat such plants.

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A form of soremouth may result when cattle graze on wet clover or alfalfa in bright sunlight. University of Illinois veterinarians say that signs of this condition may be confused with those of other diseases. They include a crusted muzzle, drooling and a swollen, protruding tongue.

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Bighead or a similar clinical disease may occur during the summer in native and feeder sheep flocks. It can be largely prevented by keeping animals out of weedy pastures and direct morning and mid-day sunlight. Feeding hay liberally before grazing also helps to prevent bighead, according to University of Illinois veterinarians.

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mely Paragraphs...
FOR YOUR COUNTY INFORMATION PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 1960

XCLUSIVE TO ADVISERS FROM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Here's a management tip for farmers whose acreage is low in relation to labor, capital and management. It takes the crops from about 81 acres to put 400 pounds of gain on 100 long-fed, good to choice yearling steers fed without corn silage. The same steers fed on a corn-silage ration would consume the production from about 68 acres. The extra net income gained from crops from the 13 acres might well pay for the silo and permit a larger volume of business.

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For a tenant operator on a crop-share-cash lease, the estimated cash cost of growing hay on an acre of land capable of growing 90-bushel corn averages $47 per acre. For an owner-operator, the average is $77 per acre. These estimates include the cash cost of seeding and harvesting hay plus the income over direct cash cost for growing one acre of 90-bushel corn. Selling corn to buy hay looks less attractive as corn yields go below 80 bushels per acre or as hay yields go above three tons per acre.

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In 1959 the top one-fifth of Illinois record-keeping hog farmers earned $71 more for every litter than the low one-fifth. The top group has received profits above all costs in seven out of the past nine years, while the bottom group has made it in only two of these years. What better evidence can a farm operator have to give him confidence in planning his production than an accurate farm business record. Some 5,500 Illinois farmers are now enrolled in the Illinois Farm Bureau Farm Management Service to receive the benefits of help and counsel with farm records. See your county farm adviser now about enrolling in this service next year.

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Enrollment in the farm business analysis and consultation service offered through the Illinois Farm Bureau Farm Management Association and the University of Illinois is now open for 1961. Nearly all counties have room for additional members. It is important, however, that you contact your county farm adviser or write the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, Urbana, to reserve a place for you.

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The estimated annual costs for tractors and harvesting equipment average about 18 percent of the purchase price; for tillage equipment, about 16 percent; and for seeding and planting equipment, about 14 percent.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

If your corn picker is clogging badly, check the snapping rolls. You may need to replace them or make them work better by welding beads along the edges of the ribs. As the corn become really dry, you might need to add studs to the rollers. But remember that this causes shelled corn losses to go up.

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Spark plugs are much more important than was previously thought. A recent study of tractor maintenance shows that merely replacing spark plugs can increase the horsepower of the average farm tractor 5.3 percent. New spark plugs also decreased fuel consumption 6.1 percent.

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Change plowshares often to make fall plowing easier. Save partly worn shares that will do a good job next spring when plowing is easier.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Don't forget a dry bed for hogs these coming cool fall nights. Such weather is ideal for flu to develop in swine of all ages, especially when they sleep outside in damp beds.

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_____ county would like to put at least 12 more herds on beef performance testing. Records are now being processed by IBM machines, so the number of herds that can be handled in Illinois is practically unlimited. The top 15 to 20 percent of the cows on performance testing are producing calves that weigh at least 100 pounds more at weaning than calves from the bottom 15 percent. Why not put your herd on performance testing and find out which cows are loafing on the job? Your farm adviser will be glad to help you with this program.

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Many farmers have some corn that will probably be immature at frost time. Some farmers are handling this corn by green chopping and feeding it to cattle. Giving cattle a full feed of green chopped corn and 1 1/2 to 2 pounds of protein supplement daily is an excellent way to start them on feed. And it makes good use of wet corn that will cause a storage problem.

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If you have put newly arrived feeder cattle on fall legume pasture, feeding some dry roughage will help to prevent the bloat problem that often appears with the first frost.

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Are you cleaning up those corn fields with feeder lambs? If so, don't forget their protein needs. Some legume hay in a rack, a fall stubble legume pasture, or a pound of soybean meal daily for every 5 lambs will supply the protein.

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In years of heavy rainfall, most farms have some extra pasture in the fall. University of Illinois tests show that newly arrived feeder cattle will gain 70 to 90 pounds over pay weight if run on these pastures for 60 days. A 400-pound calf costing $110 per head, or $27.50 per hundred pounds, will cost only $23.50 per 100 pounds if it gains 70 pounds on such pasture.

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Flushing ewes with extra feed just before and during the breeding season will mean a more uniform, earlier lamb crop with more twins. Turn the ewes on lush grass pastures. Or, if pastures are poor, feed 1/2 to 3/4 pound of grain and 1/4 pound of protein supplement daily. Grass pasture is better than legume pasture, because there is some evidence that legumes reduce ovulation. Flushing should start 10 days to two weeks before the ram is turned in with the ewes.

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Livestock extension specialists at the University of Illinois have recently written a new leaflet, "Ewe Flock Management in the '60s." You can get a copy at your farm adviser's office. This is a fine reference on many problems that occur in ewe flocks.

DAIRY SCIENCE

Washington State research workers have found that large Holstein cows produce more milk than small cows. In a herd of over 200 Holsteins, there was an increase of 641 pounds of 4 percent milk per year for every 100-pound increase in the animal's body weight.

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Grazing studies in Wisconsin show that abortions may be caused by various weeds that are high in nitrates. Cows may abort at any stage of gestation. The research workers also found that young cows were more susceptible to abortion than older cows. The weeds causing the most trouble were lamb's quarter, red root pig weed, white cockle, elderberry, stinging nettle, velvet weed, birdock, Canadian thistle and hound's tongue.

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As pasture grass matures, the protein content goes down and the undigestible fiber goes up. Unless you make up for this change in nutrient content by feeding

some hay, silage or grains, production will slump. You may also need to add some protein supplement to the grain ration.

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Before entering a partly filled silo, operate the silo blower for a few minutes to eliminate dangerous gases.

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Holsteins made up over 77 percent of all cows on DHIA test in Illinois last year. Guernseys ranked second, making up about 11 percent of all cows on test. About 5 percent were Jerseys and another 5 percent were Brown Swiss. Milking Shorthorns and Ayrshires each made up less than 1 percent.

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Do not mix show animals with the herd until after they have passed a 30-day quarantine and health inspection.

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Eating too much grain commonly causes severe losses in feeder lambs. To keep lambs from overeating shelled corn in a stalk field, University of Illinois veterinarians suggest restricting the flock to a small area in the field each day.

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Milk fever is common during the fall calving season, say University of Illinois veterinarians. The disease is caused by large calcium demands associated with high milk production in dairy cows. It usually strikes the best producers during the early stages of lactation.

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University of Illinois veterinarians note that dog owners used to buy sterilized Florida sea water in attempting to cure animals of mange. It was expensive. But it didn't work.

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Mastitis-producing bacteria enter the cow's body through bruised teats or udders. That's why University of Illinois veterinarians say that good management, sanitation and prevention of injury are important ways to control mastitis.

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Poor pastures in early September may cause cattle to eat poisonous weeds. University of Illinois veterinarians recommend that farmers check for and kill bracken, horse nettle, tall buttercup, white snakeroot and horsetail.

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mely Paragraphs...
FOR YOUR COUNTY INFORMATION PROGRAM

OCTOBER 1960

EXCLUSIVE TO ADVISERS . . . FROM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

ANIMAL SCIENCE

How should you handle new feeder cattle when they reach the farm? In 1958 the University of Illinois bought 70 calves. Twenty of them were put on new legume seeding as soon as they reached the farm. The other 50 received legume-grass silage in drylot. The calves turned onto pasture had no shipping fever that required treatment, while those in drylot had to be treated. In 63 days the pasture calves gained 70 pounds over pay weight, while those in drylot gained 42 pounds.

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Let feeder lambs rest and recover from the effects of shipment before you treat them for internal parasites. A phenothiazine drench is one of the most effective and easiest treatments to administer.

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Use excess pastures, stubble fields and stalk fields for feeder cattle. Roughages that might otherwise be wasted can put valuable pounds on these cattle and reduce the cost per pound of gain.

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Have some dry roughage ready when the first frost hits. Young feeder cattle pasturing lush legume pastures after frost may bloat or go off feed. A third-to a half-feed of good hay will help prevent such problems.

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Weigh and grade beef calves at about seven months of age. See your farm adviser about getting help from the Extension Service. Plan to performance-test purebred bull and heifer calves that you expect to use for herd replacements or sell.

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Don't let beef calves get thin before winter. If your pasture is getting short, wean the calves and try to hold their flesh, especially if you plan to feed them grain after weaning.

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Lamb feeders are now able to buy 3-milligram stilbestrol implants for implanting feeder lambs. These implants speed up gains and help to cut feed costs.

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Are you planning to run feeder cattle in your stalk fields this fall to pick up dropped corn? If you are, giving the cattle some protein supplement while they are in the fields will probably pay off. In Iowa tests, 1.2 pounds of protein supplement per head daily increased daily gains about 25 percent while cattle were in stalk fields. Each dollar spent for supplement returned $2.85.

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Don't forget that bred sows used to clean up stalk fields need protein supplement to get a balanced ration. Second-litter sows need at least 1 pound of a 35 percent drylot supplement, and first-litter gilts probably need 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 pounds of supplement per head daily.

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Are you planning to implant steer calves that you will winter and feed out next summer? If so, do it soon after they arrive on the farm. Work at the University of Illinois indicates that implants improve winter gains. Implanting as soon as possible will lessen the side-effects when the cattle go to market.

DAIRY SCIENCE

Tests conducted by research workers at various colleges and at the USDA show that sprouted grains are useful as dairy cattle feed. However, in these tests sprouting did not give the grains any special properties that greatly stimulated milk

production or helped reduce reproductive problems when the rations were otherwise adequate.

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If you want your cows to eat a little extra hay, throw it down from the mow just before feeding time. Hay rapidly absorbs odors from the cow barn, and the cows don't like it. The problem is most serious in poorly ventilated barns where the humidity is high.

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Drafts are the number one enemy of a young dairy calf. For best results in raising those valuable heifers this fall and winter, make sure they are housed in draft-free quarters. But don't make the area too tight. Excess moisture can also become a serious problem. A good ventilating system in the calf barn helps to control both drafts and moisture.

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To estimate your roughage requirements for this winter, figure at least 2 1/2 tons of legume hay equivalent for each milking cow, 1 1/2 to 2 tons for each yearling and 3/4 ton for each heifer 6 to 12 months old. In making your estimates, figure three tons of silage equivalent to one ton of hay.

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Good milking pays off. A Wisconsin study found that cows in herds where milking practices were rated excellent produced 33 more pounds of butterfat than cows in herds rated good, 66 pounds more than those in herds rated fair, and 99 pounds more than those in herds doing a poor job of milking.

FARM MANAGEMENT

Anyone applying for farm credit must be in a position to prove his capacity to pay. Therefore accurate farm records are very helpful. The Illinois Farm Business Record and the Illinois Farm Record Book offered through the county agricultural

extension office and the Illinois Farm Bureau Farm Management Service are among the best of their kind for this purpose.

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Record-keeping is not a chore for farmers who have a system and an incentive. The Farm Bureau Farm Management Service has cooperated with the University of Illinois since 1924 in providing Illinois farmers with a system and an incentive to keep records that is one of the best of its kind. That is why 95 percent of the 5,500 enrollees stay with the service year after year. Any county farm adviser can give detailed information about this program.

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Here is a management tip for cattle feeders whose space and capital are limited in relation to available labor and management: Usually a good to choice steer calf program will yield about 20 percent more pounds of beef per acre or per $1.00 of steer cost than a good to choice yearling steer program when both are fed without corn silage. When corn silage is available, however, this advantage for calves is cut in half. The beef per acre from calves fed no corn silage is about equal to that of yearlings fed corn silage.

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Three things are slowing down the big rush to larger farms and larger livestock enterprises: (1) risks and uncertainties, (2) managerial ability and (3) capital requirements. Current returns to capital in agriculture are low compared with those in other businesses. This fact combined with (1) and (2) above puts a damper on expansion of agricultural production except by the more efficient operators.

POULTRY

When you house range-grown pullets, separate them according to their size. Then the smaller pullets will not compete with more aggressive ones and their production will be higher.

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Treat your new layers well so that they will reach a high peak of production. The higher the peak, the higher the level of production.

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Handle eggs carefully. Collecting eggs in filler flats will reduce breakage. Thin-shelled eggs are produced mostly by layers over 15 months old.

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Debeaking stops cannibalism. Take off half of the upper beak and the tip of the lower beak. Removing more may cut production, and removing less will not stop the problem.

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It doesn't pay to keep old hens through a second year of production. They lay fewer eggs and more of them die.

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Loss of eggs through breakage and wastage greatly affects your returns from egg production. Some records show the difference between the number of eggs laid and the number sold to be 6 to 12 a bird. At 36 cents a dozen with a 5,000-hen flock, this loss would amount to $900 to $1,800 a year. Check flock management and egg handling for ways to prevent this loss.

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Farmers should treat shipping fever in its early stages. If allowed to advance to the pneumonia stage, it means death or a slow recovery.

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University of Illinois veterinarians say that dry, clean pens are the most effective way to prevent swine influenza.

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Separate dairy calves into age groups. University of Illinois veterinarians report that it helps to control respiratory diseases.

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Poultrymen should never use fowl pox vaccine in localities or on farms where the disease has never occurred.

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Don't overfeed calves on grain or neglect to give them adequate roughage this fall, advise University of Illinois veterinarians. The development of the calf's rumen depends on proper feeding. Good feeding also promotes growth and helps to prevent intestinal disorders.

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During changeable fall weather, keep swine away from hedge fences and old straw stacks where they can find worms that carry the swine influenza virus. The worm is a host for the virus, which becomes active in this weather.

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The scabies problem becomes acute as sheep are brought in from range or pasture. Close contact in shelter increases the likelihood of their passing the scabies mites. University of Illinois veterinarians say that signs of scabies are most often found on the back and sides. Affected sheep nibble at their wool or scratch with their hind legs.

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To minimize leukosis losses, separate chickens of different age groups, advise University of Illinois veterinarians. They say the range or fowl paralysis form of this disease is usually found in birds from two to five months old. Cancer-like cells injure the wing and leg nerves, and the birds become paralyzed.

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imely Paragraphs...
FOR YOUR COUNTY INFORMATION PROGRAM
NOVEMBER 1960
EXCLUSIVE TO ADVISERS FROM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Illinois farm records show that the average feeder calf producer needs about 26 cents a pound to pay usual production costs for the calves he sells. This amount includes all direct cash costs and market prices for feed, direct labor and money invested in the beef cow. Farms with no other use for the roughage could get as little as 20 cents a pound in the short-run period. This indicates that cow herd owners may have slim profits the next few years.

Producers could increase profits by culling unprofitable cows now. The outlook may improve when cattle numbers go down.

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The average amount of labor used on the typical Farm Bureau Farm Management Service record-keeping farm has dropped from 20.0 to 19.1 months per year since 1952. Yet during this same period the quantity and value of the output has increased about $3,000 per farm.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Make sure the metal base of electrically heated watering equipment is grounded. Connect it to the neutral at the switch box as well as to a driven ground rod.

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Run grain aeration fans until the temperature of air coming out of the grain is about 40° F.

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Use plenty of adjustable flood lamp holders at the corners of buildings. An extra circuit and switch inside will make such lights well worth while when days are short.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Four pounds of good-quality legume hay furnish about the same amount of protein as one pound of a high-protein supplement. Keep these figures in mind when planning your wintering cattle rations. You might reduce your cost of gains.

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Heavy calves and yearlings are better adapted to gleaning cornfields than light-weight calves. Cattle that glean cornfields should get legume hay or protein supplement to balance their ration and increase gains.

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Feed bred ewes good-quality legume hay throughout their pregnancy. During the last four or six weeks before lambing, they need 1/2 to 1 pound of grain per head daily. This source of energy is needed to reduce or eliminate pregnancy disease or lambing paralysis.

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Steer calves receiving a full feed of corn silage, 2 to 3 pounds of legume hay and 1 pound of a high-protein supplement should gain about 1 1/2 pounds a day. If you want greater gains, feed grain in addition. Adding 4 pounds of grain should raise the total gain to nearly 2 pounds a day. Offer a free-choice mineral ration at all times.

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Internal parasites in feeder cattle will slow gains and increase costs. If you suspect that your steers have worms, ask your veterinarian to run an egg

count on a manure sample. If the egg count is high enough, he will recommend worming. For best results, worm before the cattle are on full feed.

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Is alfalfa meal preferable to commercial premixes in drylot hog rations? While it is a good source of B vitamins and vitamin A, the commercial premixes are usually a cheaper source. The fiber in alfalfa meal may also tend to slow down gains. If you are mixing your own rations, your county farm adviser can give you sources of these vitamin premixes.

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Market hogs can safely follow cattle that are implanted or receiving stilbestrol in their rations. Breeding hogs can also safely follow implanting cattle. But, to be completely safe, it is recommended that they do not follow cattle receiving stilbestrol in the daily rations. The dangers of reproduction interference are greatest at breeding time. Many feeders, however, report satisfactory results when breeding hogs have followed cattle receiving stilbestrol. They minimize the danger by feeding extra grain to the hogs throughout breeding and gestation.

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Pigs farrowed in December and January require extra care because of cold weather and confinement. Provide clean quarters at farrowing time, and additional heat if possible. Farrowing crates or stalls are the best way to reduce death loss. Guard rails also help. Provide a source of iron so that pigs will not become anemic. Above all, watch the pigs closely so that you can spot problems early and correct them before losses are large. Large litters are necessary for profitable hog operations.

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A University of Illinois test indicates that calves gain faster if antibiotics are included in their wintering ration. This conclusion agrees with results

of tests at other experiment stations. These results indicate that antibiotic responses are more consistent when cattle receive primarily roughage rations than rations consisting mostly of grain. About 75 milligrams of antibiotics per head per day seems to be about the right amount.

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If you are not using farrowing stalls, you are certainly missing a good way to save that extra pig or two in each litter. Your farm adviser can supply plans for building farrowing stalls.

DAIRY SCIENCE

Watch each cow carefully while milking machines are operating. If the teat cups start to crawl up on the udder, pull them part-way down, using the free hand to massage the udder for complete milking. Don't rush through milking. Incomplete milking reduces milk yield. But don't leave the milking machine on too long either. Remove the teat cups immediately after the udder is empty.

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Plastic covers on horizontal silos must be installed properly to keep air from getting in under the cover. Air under the plastic causes just as much spoilage as if no cover had been used. Installing the cover properly and weighting it down with sawdust, lime or soil can decrease dry matter losses from about 31 to 10 percent. This result was shown after five years of work with plastic covers on horizontal silos at the USDA Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland.

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Dairy calves fed ground grain and long hay at the University of Minnesota gained faster than those on a complete pelleted starter ration. The calves on long hay and a simple grain starter gained 65 pounds from 3 to 84 days of age. Calves

fed a pelleted ration of 40 percent alfalfa meal and 60 percent grain gained only 48 pounds during the same period.

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Warm water is important in winter milk production. Every 100 pounds of milk contains 87 pounds of water. High-producing cows drink 20 to 30 gallons of water or more each day. In cold weather it costs less to warm this water with electricity, coal, oil, or gas before the cow drinks it than afterward with high-priced grain and roughage.

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If you are wondering how much hay and silage to feed your milk cows this winter, here's the answer: Feed them all they will eat without undue waste. You can determine the proportion of hay to silage by the supply of each you have on hand, since one can be substituted for the other. About three pounds of silage replaces one pound of hay.

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mely Paragraphs...
FOR YOUR COUNTY INFORMATION PROGRAM

DECEMBER 1960

XCLUSIVE TO ADVISERS FROM UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Labor and management returns from cash-grain crops grown on the average Illinois farm are now the lowest since World War II. Fewer grain farmers are enjoying the luxury of a good living from only crop-season employment. If current grain prices continue, high net incomes on these farms are more apt to be associated with top efficiency in crop production and year-round employment of farm labor.

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Total costs are rising faster than the value of farm production. A recent farm record study comparing two years at the beginning of the last decade with two years at the end on 180 identical Illinois farms shows that the value of all farm production per farm increased 18 percent, but total costs increased 38 percent.

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Have you ever wondered how your farm compares with similar farms in your area? Farmers enrolled in the Illinois Farm Bureau Farm Management Service receive this comparison each year. It has proved to be so popular that more than 95 percent of these farmers continue this service year after year. There are now 5,500 Illinois farmers enrolled. Check with your county farm adviser to see about enrolling next year.

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Are you worried about what the future on your farm will provide for your family? Worries are associated with risks and uncertainties. Farmers can calculate many business risks and eliminate many uncertainties by knowing where their business stands in relation to their competitors. The Illinois Farm Bureau Farm Management Service provides a comparative business analysis service that can help you calculate

your risks and study your strong and weak points. Several thousand Illinois farmers now enrolled in this service are gaining confidence in the conduct of their business. Your county farm adviser, a representative of the University of Illinois, can furnish more details about this service.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Pumping extra water for overflow is a simple way to prevent water tanks from freezing. If you have an abundant water supply and a suitable drain, allow a slow trickle of water to pass through watering equipment for hogs or cattle. This is an economical way to keep it fresh and ice-free. Some new watering equipment doesn't run the water to a drain but has a pump to circulate warmed water through the units.

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The larger the number of animals that drink from an automatically heated waterer, the less the power will cost, because the fresh water will keep the thermostat turned off. A two-door hog waterer accessible from all sides is satisfactory for 75 market-weight animals. A hundred head of cattle can be easily accommodated with a two-door waterer located in the open so that there will be no crowding at any time.

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When you buy your friend one of the new pieces of equipment with a grounded plug, be sure to give him an extra adapter plug. Then he won't be tempted to break off the third wire or grounding prong. Better still, send him a note saying that you hope he can soon modernize his wiring with an outlet to fit this new appliance cord.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

Heavy calves and yearlings can glean cornfields better than light-weight alves. Cattle that glean cornfields should get legume hay or a protein supplement o balance their ration and increase gains.

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Steer calves receiving a full feed of corn silage, 2 to 3 pounds of legume ay and 1 pound of a high-protein supplement should gain about 1 1/2 pounds a day. f you want greater gains, feed grain in addition. Adding 4 pounds of grain should aise the total gain to nearly 2 pounds a day. Offer a free-choice mineral ration t all times.

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Pigs farrowed in December and January require extra care. Provide clean uarters at farrowing time, and additional heat if possible. Farrowing crates or talls are the best way to reduce death loss. Guard rails also help. Provide a ource of iron so that pigs will not become anemic. Above all, watch the pigs losely so that you can spot problems early and correct them before losses are large. arge litters are necessary for profitable hog operations.

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Disease control is probably the number one problem in confinement hog- raising systems. If you buy feeder pigs, make every effort to see that they are

healthy and thrifty. Strict sanitation is a must. Have a hospital pen available and, at the first sign, separate unthrifty pigs from healthy pigs.

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Fix a creep so that pigs can get some feed away from the sow when they are a week to 10 days old. The earlier pigs start eating, the better. A pig makes better use of its feed before weaning than at any other time. In bad weather, pigs will eat twice as much feed from a creep inside a building as from one outside.

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Breeding sows need 1 pound of protein supplement per head daily. Good rye pasture may cut the protein requirement. As the farrowing season approaches, increase the protein to 1 1/4 or 1 1/2 pounds daily.

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Feeder lambs should not be required to glean all the corn from harvested fields before being placed on feed under drylot conditions. Careful observation should make it possible to switch to trough or self-feeder without the lambs' becoming hungry enough to suffer seriously from overeating.

DAIRY SCIENCE

Corn silage is an excellent roughage for dairy cattle, but it contains less protein than average-quality legume hay. Farmers must consider this fact in formulating grain mixtures to supplement roughages made up primarily of corn silage. If the cows receive less than 6 or 7 pounds of hay daily plus corn silage, feed a grain ration containing 16 to 18 percent total protein. On the other hand, if 12 to 15 pounds of good-quality hay is fed daily to each cow along with all of the corn silage she will eat, a grain ration containing 13 to 14 percent protein is adequate. In all cases give cows all the roughage they will eat without undue waste, and feed grain according to milk yield.

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The best protein supplement to use with farm grains in a dairy grain mixture is the one that provides a pound of protein at the lowest cost, is readily available and can be easily mixed with the farm grains.

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A good rest period following a heifer's first lactation is extremely important for at least two reasons: First, the heifer probably did not have an opportunity to grow much during the first year of production. But if she is well fed she will grow rapidly when lactation stops and will produce more during the next lactation. Second, to develop further, the udder of the first-calf heifer must have rest. A rest period of six to eight weeks before the second calf is usually adequate.

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Heavy corn feeding did not cause an increase of mastitis in a University of Illinois experiment with 14 cows. Each cow received more than 10 pounds of ground shelled corn daily for more than half of its lactation, and one cow received 25 pounds each day. Some of the cows produced up to 600 pounds of butterfat in 305 days on twice-a-day milking.

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Mastitis and undesirably shaped udders are only two problems that may develop when young calves suck one another. To keep calves from developing this habit, put them in separate pens or tie them in stanchions until the desire is gone. Feeding a small amount of grain immediately after the milk or milk replacer has been fed will help to eliminate the habit.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

SHOULD WE ABOLISH PRODUCTION ESTIMATES AND MARKETING FORECASTS?

URBANA, ILLINOIS JAN. 4, 1961

This is the big season for farm outlook statements--forecasts of production, marketings and prices. Many farmers find this information to be interesting and useful for planning their farming operations. Other farmers believe that the publishing of such information is injurious to farmers. They feel that buyers of farm products use the information to "beat down" the prices they pay to farmers. Some of these farmers say that the collection and publication of production estimates and price forecasts should be prohibited.

I once knew a dealer in farm products who admitted that he sometimes used official production estimates to "beat down the farmer." Some other dealers may follow similar practices. We should note, however, that this dealer was not buying either livestock or grain. The product that he bought was a minor one for which market information is not commonly available to farmers.

The best markets exist, we believe, where both buyers and sellers are well informed about current and prospective supplies and prices. If one side is poorly informed, the other side may take advantage of it. Most of our farmers are well informed. The buyer must also be well informed. Otherwise he will not be in business very long.

Let us suppose, for purposes of discussion, that the government would stop publishing production estimates and market reports. Both sides--producers and buyers--would lose valuable information. But the farmers would probably lose more than the buyers. Each farmer would then know only what he, and possibly a few neighbors, had on hand and were producing. Each farmer could not know what farmers in other communities, states and regions were producing, nor what was being produced in other countries.

But how about the buyers? We all know that the big meat packers have offices and men all over the country. They would gather information about livestock from every state and most communities. They might even exchange information. The big grain companies, too, have offices--eyes and

ears--in all major producing areas. Several of them also have offices and representatives in many foreign lands. The dealers would have information not only about crop and livestock production, but also about rates of consumption and price movements both in the United States and in other countries.

When processors lack accurate information about prospective supplies, the farmer often suffers financially. For example, in the fall of 1955 marketings of livestock were much larger than had been expected. Meat packers and retailers were not prepared to handle the big volume that farmers sent to market. They had to hire extra, inefficient help. They had to pay time-and-a-half and double-time wages to get the meat out. Prices for hogs dropped to under $11 a hundred pounds, and choice steers at Chicago to below $19. If the packers and retailers had had more accurate information about what they would have to handle, they could have trained more workers and carried on more effective meat promotion programs. This would have helped to support livestock prices.

In summary, official market information may sometimes be used to the disadvantage of farmers, but the lack of such information would, we believe, be more injurious to farmers than to the buyers of farm products.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

SOYBEAN PRICES MAY REACH EARLY PEAK

URBANA, ILLINOIS JAN. 11, 1961

The run-up in soybean prices was not forecastable, but neither was it entirely unexpected. After such a boom has started, the safest course is to ride along for a time--but get off before the reaction sets in.

The foundation for the price advance was laid when soybean production failed to set a new record in either 1959 or 1960. Although the 1960 crop was only 3 percent smaller than the record crop of 1958, it was comparatively small.

SHORT CROP? We say that the 1960 crop of beans was comparatively small because soybean production doubled in the five years ending with 1958 and set a new record every year. In such a situation the two-year stretch without a new record was abnormal. It was the first two-year period of less-than-record output since 1937.

Soybean production outran use and exports when production reached 560 million bushels in 1958. About 10 percent of that crop was left over at the end of the marketing year.

The carry-over was cut to only 23 million bushels by last October 1. This small carry-over plus the 1960 crop of 559 million bushels provided a total supply of 582 million bushels for this marketing year. This amount was figured to be about equal to needs for seed, crushing and exports.

SOYBEAN OIL VALUES ROSE. A further basis for improvement in soybean prices was provided by the recovery of oil values. Whereas soybean oil sold at near 7 cents a pound early in 1960, prices had moved up to 10 cents by December. Since a bushel of beans produces around 11 pounds of oil, the rise in oil prices added about 33 cents to the value of a bushel of soybeans.

Many reasons have been listed for the improvement in oil prices. Subsidized exports under P.L. 480 took substantial quantities of oil. This is the short year of the two-year cycle in the production of olive oil. Lard production has been cut back in recent months. Reports of crop failure in communist China also provided fuel for speculation.

MEAL PRICES RECOVERED. For a time, sinking prices for soybean meal offset the rise in oil values. Prices for 44 percent solvent meal at Decatur declined from above $60 a ton a year ago to $44 in November. Prices had recently recovered to around $55. Since about 42 bushels of beans produce a ton of meal, each swing of $1 a ton in the price of meal changes the value of beans by nearly 2 1/2 cents a bushel.

A basic question in the soybean outlook was whether meal prices would advance before the price of oil declined. Soybean meal prices have averaged $55 a ton in the past three years.

The 1960 soybean crop has now been recognized as a short crop. And this reminds us of that old saying in the grain trade: "A short crop has a long tail."

The interpretation is that prices for short crops tend to reach their seasonal peaks earlier in the marketing year than do prices for normal and large crops.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS JAN. 18, 1961

SUPPLIES OF MOST GRASS AND LEGUME SEEDS ARE AMPLE

Many Prices Are Lower Than Last Year

Supplies of legume and grass seeds are about the same as they were a year ago and are generally adequate for 1961 needs. Supplies of most kinds are smaller than average, but farmers' needs are smaller too, since they are gradually reducing their use of rotation hay and pasture. Furthermore, substantial amounts of some kinds of legume and grass seeds will be imported to meet the needs.

The supply of alfalfa seed is estimated at 171 million pounds, down 7 percent from a year ago and down 27 percent from the 10-year, 1949-58, average. Producers sold their 1960 crop of alfalfa seed for prices averaging about $27.50 a hundred pounds, or $1.80 less than the year before.

The supply of red clover seed, 120 million pounds, is 10 percent above last year and 5 percent above average. Producers received $21.10 a hundred pounds for their crop, $5.00 less than the year before.

Lespedeza supplies are estimated at 102 million pounds. This is 27 percent short of last year and 37 percent short of average. This shortage is not expected to be made up by imports. Farmers were paid $12.20 a hundred pounds, $2.28 more than the year before.

The supply of sweet clover seed is figured at 46 million pounds, 9 percent less than a year ago and 25 percent less than the average of 10 years. Imports will add to supplies. United States producers were paid about $61.60 a hundred pounds for their 1960 crop, $2.10 less than the price received for the previous crop.

The alsike clover seed supply totals 11 million pounds, off 14 percent from the year before and off 30 percent from the average. This supply will be supplemented by imports. Farmers got $16.50 a hundred for their 1960 crop, $2.10 less than for the 1959 crop.

The supply of Ladino clover is 6 million pounds. It is about the same as last year and is considered to be adequate. Producers received $60 a hundred pounds, $10 more than a year before.

(Continued)

A supply of 60 million pounds of timothy is 28 percent more than last year and 18 percent more than average. The 1960 crop was sold by farmers for $5.86 a hundred pounds, $5.00 less than they received for the previous crop.

The supply of tall fescues (Alta and Kentucky 31) is 33 million pounds. This is 18 percent less than a year ago, but 16 percent more than average. Farmers sold their seed for $11.30 a hundred pounds, $5.30 less than the year before.

The supply of 18 million pounds of smooth bromegrass is a bit less than a year ago, but 22 percent more than the 10-year average. The price received by farmers was $9.45 a hundred pounds, $5.85 less than the previous year.

Of orchardgrass seed we have 16 million pounds, which is up 18 percent from a year ago and is about an average supply. Farmers sold their 1960 crop for $15.60 a hundred pounds, down $7.40 from a year before.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

CATTLE FEEDING INCREASES ONLY 6 PERCENT; PRICE DECLINE TO BE MODERATE

URBANA, ILLINOIS JAN. 25, 1961

The report of cattle on feed January 1 provided reassuring news for cattle feeders. It showed that prospective market supplies of fed cattle are only moderately larger than they were a year ago.

Six percent is the key figure. The total number of cattle on feed in the United States was up 6 percent from a year ago. Farmers in the north-central states were feeding 6 percent more cattle. Illinois farmers were feeding 6 percent more. And reports from the farmers indicated that they would market around 6 percent more fed cattle in January-February-March than they marketed in the same quarter last year. This increase is moderate, especially when compared with the increase in population, which is nearly 2 percent a year.

Consumer demand for beef should be stronger in the next 90 days than it was a year ago. Business is not exactly booming, but consumer income recently was about as large as it was a year before. Supplies of pork, the principal competitor of beef, are expected to be a little smaller than they were last year. The actual reduction seems likely to be 6 to 8 percent. Supplies of broiler meat, the second ranking competitor of beef, may be 5 to 10 percent larger. But this increase will not offset the cut in pork supplies, because the output of broiler meat is only about half as large as the production of pork.

This supply-demand situation should hold prices near present levels for 60 to 90 days. Prices in this first quarter may about equal those of last year, when choice steers at Chicago averaged slightly above $27.00 a hundred pounds.

Prices for the three later quarters of this year seem likely to average 5 to 10 percent lower than in 1960. There are several reasons:

1. Market supplies of fed cattle will probably be moderately larger than in 1960.
2. Marketings of grass cattle are expected to increase considerably over last year, probably by 6 to 8 percent.

3. By April or May the slaughter of hogs is expected to begin to run larger than a year before. The number of pigs saved in September, October and November was 7 percent larger. And the December government pig-crop report indicated that the number of pigs saved in the three winter months would be around 9 percent larger.

4. The broiler producers are continuing to expand production. Eggs set now will make chicken in the skillet in 90 days.

5. Finally, while business activity might turn up in the second quarter, advances may be slow. Steak is a luxury that most Americans can afford, at least occasionally, but sales are sensitive to changes in profits and employment.

Even if prices for fed cattle average lower in 1961 than in 1960, they will be relatively high compared with prices of most other farm products. If some cattle feeders are pinched, it will be because they paid too much for their replacement cattle. Recent prices for stockers and feeders were about as high as they were a year earlier.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

SOYBEANS: SUPPLY DOWN, USE UP
CORN: SUPPLY UP, USE DOWN SLIGHTLY

URBANA, ILLINOIS FEB. 1, 1961

SOYBEANS. We have never had a real surplus of soybeans. Practically all stocks have been used up each year except in 1958-59. At the end of that year, the carry-over was 62 million bushels, but that was only 11 percent of the crop. It was reduced to only 23 million bushels on October 1, 1960.

The quarterly report on supplies and use showed some new facts about the soybean situation. It showed that the market situation is tighter than it was a year ago, but it provided no guarantee of further price increases--or even of maintaining recent price levels.

Supplies of beans are smaller now and we are using and exporting them faster than we did last year. During the October-December quarter crushings for oil and meal took 110 million bushels, 5 percent more than the year before. Exports took 56 million bushels, up 10 percent.

Stocks of soybeans on hand January 1 were estimated at 424 million bushels, or 6 percent less than a year ago. Stocks on farms were listed at 172 million bushels, down 12 percent. Stocks at processing plants totaled 111 million bushels, up 6 percent. Stocks in elevators and warehouses were 141 million bushels, down 6 percent. The 424 million bushels on hand January 1 is 17 million more than was used for seed, crushed and exported from January 1 to October 1 last year.

The Commodity Credit Corporation, which owned 13 million bushels on January 1 last year, has sold practically all of its stocks. The liquidation of CCC stocks is reflected in smaller supplies reported this year in elevators and warehouses.

At recent prices, soybeans were 44 cents a bushel higher than they were last year, but the value of the oil and meal from a bushel of beans was up only 35 cents.

CORN. Total stocks of corn on hand January 1 were estimated at 4,700 million bushels, up 7 percent from the year before. Most of this increase was in CCC corn and in elevators and warehouses. Stocks in CCC facilities were listed at 688 million, up 20 percent from the same time last

year. Elevator and warehouse stocks were 952 million bushels, up 25 percent. Farm stocks were estimated at 3,060 million bushels, up only 1 percent.

Disappearance of corn in the October-December quarter was calculated at 1,038 million bushels, or 1 percent less than the year before. The smaller use so far this year reflects reduced feeding to hogs. About 10 percent fewer hogs were fed in this quarter in 1960 than last year. This reduction more than offset a slight increase in cattle feeding.

Recent prices for corn were about equal to the "effective" price support rate. The "effective" support rate is the actual rate less costs. There is now little advantage in placing corn under price support unless the market price increases considerably.

Talk in Washington about raising price supports for the next corn crop has a bullish influence on prices for the current crop. It will also tend to reduce the use of corn--because farmers will be slower to expand livestock production when they expect the price of corn to go up.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS FEB. 8, 1961

SOYBEANS: IT LOOKS LIKE TIME TO SELL

There is little doubt that we will scrape the bottom of the soybean barrel this year. Carry-over will be close to ten million bushels, which is the minimum pipeline supply. The uncertainty has to do with the price at which all of the beans can be used up.

How well the supply can be made to last will depend on the price. It is clear that at $2.00 a bushel there will not be enough to last all season. At some higher price we may price so many users out of the market that there will be too many beans. As this happens we will need to put the price back down to get some customers back in the store.

If crop and carry-over were estimated correctly, the supply is large enough to seed 10 percent more acres, carry-over 10 million bushels, process 400 million for oil and meal, and export 140 million. Last year the crush was 392 million and exports were 142 million. During the first four months of this season, both crush and exports were above year-before levels.

If exports total 140 million bushels, the remaining supply of soybeans will permit a crush of about the same size as last year's. During January-September of last year, soybean meal averaged $54.50. The current price of beans is reflecting a meal price of over $60 a ton. Livestock numbers are moderately larger and should average a bit higher in price than they did last year. At current meal prices customers are probably being lost pretty rapidly; we are likely to lose too many if the price goes above $60 to $62.

A crush of 400 million will require record exports of fats and oils. The world is basically more abundantly supplied with edible fats and oils than it was last year, when prices were much lower than they are now. Production of such competing oil-bearing materials as peanuts, coconuts and sunflower seed is up sharply from last year. All that is holding the price of oil so strong is the huge giveaway operation of the USDA. Even with the huge USDA programs, we must depend on large sales for dollars. Current prices are probably driving some of this business away.

In the October-December quarter, exports of soybeans were five million bushels above the year before. They were about the same in January. These export sales were made at prices close to year-ago levels. Since then the price has gone up more than 50 cents. Today's price is probably driving European processors away from U.S. soybeans to Africa to buy peanuts.

There is no way to be certain how the various users will react to higher prices, but it appears to me that current prices are more than high enough to ration out the supply.

There is much speculative enthusiasm for soybeans. The general public has bought huge quantities of soybean futures. Their enthusiasm has been fanned by suggestions from Washington about new farm legislation.

When it is necessary to make a major readjustment upward in price to stretch the supply out, as it has been this year, the price usually overshoots its target. One thing seems certain: From some level or other there will be a major decline in soybean prices.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

BEEF CATTLE OUTLOOK IS BRIGHTENED

Nation's Herd Is Smaller Than Expected

URBANA, ILLINOIS FEB. 22, 1961

We don't have as many cattle as we thought. We don't suspect rustlers. It is just that Uncle Sam's statisticians apparently have been overestimating cattle numbers since the 1954 census. When the boys saw the 1959 census figures, they revised their previous estimates for 1960--and back through 1956.

This is customary procedure after each census. But the revisions are much bigger this time than usual. It seems that not enough allowance had been made for the reduction in numbers of farms and ranches. Things are changing so fast now that statistics are out of date even before electronic machines can print the tape.

The new estimates for January 1 of this year show only 97,139,000 head of cattle and calves on farms and ranches. That is 7 percent less than was expected on the basis of previous estimates. It is only 1/2 million more than the number reported by the USDA two years ago!

It now appears that the reduction in cattle numbers from 1955 to 1958 was about 5 1/2 million instead of only 3 1/2 million as had been believed. With this change in the figures, the most recent cattle cycle appears to be quite normal.

We should point out, however, that the present estimate is only half a million more than the number shown for the previous peak in 1955.

Numbers of dairy cattle, especially, were smaller than had been expected. These estimates were reduced by around 8 percent.

The estimates of numbers of beef cattle were cut back only about 4 percent. Here's how the numbers of various classes of beef cattle compare with last year, and with the number on hand

(Continued)

at the peak of the previous cycle in 1955 (in comparing present numbers of cattle with figures for 1955 and 1956, remember that our population is about 8 percent greater than it was five years ago.)

ALL BEEF CATTLE--67.2 million head, up 2 percent from a year before and 10 percent more than in 1955.

STEERS--10.9 million, up 4 percent from 1960 and 13 percent more than at the previous peak in 1956.

BEEF HEIFERS--7.0 million, the same as last year and 8 percent more than in 1955.

BEEF CALVES--20.6 million, 1 percent more than a year ago and 8 percent more than at the previous peak in 1956.

BEEF COWS--27.0 million, 2 percent more than a year ago and only 5 percent more than the previous peak in 1955.

The revised estimates of cattle numbers should give us new confidence in the cattle market. Marketings of cattle now seem likely to be only a little larger this year than in 1960. Drouth, of course, could force farmers and ranchers to sell more than normal numbers. Several states have received less than normal precipitation this winter.

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Urbana, Illinois

Director

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

MARKET PRICE OF CORN IS BIG QUESTION UNDER ADMINISTRATION FARM BILL

URBANA, ILLINOIS MARCH 1, 1961

Farmers and others have asked us for information about the Administration's proposed new farm program. We have some information about the bill, but also some questions about the program that might be carried out under it.

The biggest question is the probable market price for corn. One administration economist has been quoted as saying that the market price would rise to the support level, so that the government would not have to take over any of the 1961 corn crop. If this forecast proves to be correct, there would be no advantage to participating farmers, unless they happen to have unusually low yields this year.

But one provision of the administration bill would, in effect, remove all restrictions on the sale of CCC stocks of corn. This would permit the CCC to sell large quantities to hold down the market price of corn to induce farmers to participate in the program. This is a sharp reversal of long-standing law which allows general sales of corn only when the market price is substantially above the support level. Whereas the aim of present and previous programs has been to raise market prices, one aim of the proposed program may be to hold them down.

In order to participate in the proposed farm program, a farmer would have to do two things: (1) reduce his corn acreage by 20 percent and (2) leave this 20 percent of his land unused.

In return for holding this corn land idle, the farmer would receive two privileges: (1) he could get price support for his corn at $1.20 a bushel and (2) he would receive a government payment equal to 72 cents a bushel times the estimated normal production of the unused land.

(The amount of this payment is usually explained as 60 percent of the value of the normal production on the land. The 72-cent-per-bushel payment rate is simply 60 percent of the $1.20 support level.)

(Continued)

For example, on land with a normal production of 100 bushels an acre, the payment would be $72 an acre. Payments on 75-bushel corn land would be $53 an acre, and on 50-bushel land the payments would be $36.

Any farmer who idled more than 20 percent of his corn land would be paid at a rate of 90 cents a bushel times the estimated normal production on the additional land. (This 90 cents is 75 percent of the $1.20 support level.)

For example, the payments would be $90 an acre on 100-bushel land, $67.50 on 75-bushel land and $45 on 50-bushel land. The farmer can take this payment in corn from CCC stocks if he prefers it to cash.

Official average corn yields for Illinois were as follows: 1958 - 69 bushels, 1959 - 67 bushels and 1960 - 68 bushels.

A price support level of $2.30 a bushel is proposed for soybeans. This compares with the $1.85 support level for the 1960 crop. This support level is far below present market prices, but it is also far above the prices that have built rapidly expanding domestic and foreign markets for soybeans.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

THE NEW FEED GRAIN FARM PROGRAM: QUALIFICATION AND BENEFITS

URBANA, ILLINOIS MARCH 29, 1961

Some details of the new feed grain farm program are still being worked out, but the general rules are set.

The program is voluntary. It applies only to 1961 crops of field corn and grain sorghum.

PARTICIPATION. In order to participate in the program a corn grower will reduce his 1961 acreage 20 percent (or more if he chooses) below his base acreage (which is the average acreage grown in the past two years). The acreage thus diverted from corn must be used for soil conserving purposes. It cannot be harvested or pastured, and it must be in addition to the average acreage used for soil conservation in the past two years.

BENEFITS. A participating corn grower will be eligible for a price support loan at $1.20 a bushel (national average) on the normal production of the acres planted to corn. In addition he will receive a government payment equal to the support price times 50 percent of the normal production of the diverted acres. One-half of this payment may be paid as soon as possible after the farmer signs up, and the other half after compliance is checked.

Acreage bases and normal production for each farm are being computed by the county ASC committees. When these calculations are completed each farmer will be informed by mail.

ADDITIONAL DIVERSION. A farmer who has a corn base of more than 100 acres can divert up to 40 percent of it to conservation uses. For the first 20 percent diverted, his payment will be the support price times 50 percent of the normal production of these acres. But for the additional acres diverted he will be paid the support rate times 60 percent of the normal production of the land.

The situations for farmers who have corn bases of less than 100 acres are not quite so simple. They can receive payments for diverting as much as 20 percent of their bases plus 20 acres. For the

(Continued)

first 20 percent diverted the payment is the price support rate times the regular 50 percent of normal production of the diverted acres. For the second 20 percent the payment will be figured on 60 percent of normal production. But for additional acres over 40 percent of the base, the payment will be at the regular rate of 50 percent of normal production times the support level.

Take for example, a farm with a corn base of 80 acres. This farm can qualify for price support by diverting only 20 percent, or 16 acres. But if the farmer wishes to do so, he can divert an additional 20 acres, or 36 acres in all. In this case he will be paid at the 50 percent rate on the first 20 percent (16 acres), 60 percent on the second 20 percent (16 acres) and then 50 percent on remaining 4 acres.

MARKET PRICE. The big uncertainty in the outlook is the market price for corn. Under the new law the CCC will be authorized to sell up to about half as much as farmers reduce production. These sales would be in addition to normal sales of corn for export and sales of corn that is in danger of going out of condition.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

PRICE PROSPECTS FOR 1961 CROP CORN

URBANA, ILLINOIS APRIL 12, 1961

Many farmers are asking about prospects for market prices for 1961 crop corn. The answer seems to depend largely on the extent to which farmers participate in the new feed-grain program.

If a large share of farmers sign up, corn prices seem likely to rise to within about 10 cents of the support level. If only a small share of farmers participate, prices may range around 80 to 90 cents a bushel.

First, suppose that farmer participation is high, say 50 percent in the seven leading corn states. Nonparticipating farmers would produce only about 2,500 million bushels of corn. This would be about 1,000 million bushels less than the quantity that will be needed for feed, industry and export. This amount would have to come from CCC stocks and from farms that participate in the program.

The CCC will sell enough corn to make up part of the deficit. It will be authorized to sell about half as much corn as would have been produced on the diverted acres, say 140 million bushels. The CCC could take over the export market and sell around 200 million bushels more. Finally, it will sell corn that is in poor condition.

The Secretary thus has considerable leeway in selling CCC corn. We may recall, however, that Congress recently turned down a request for permission to make general sales of corn at less than 105 percent of the support price. CCC officials will keep this in mind when making their sales plans. We believe that sales from CCC stocks would not be enough to meet market demands with prices as low as $1.00 a bushel. The additional corn needed would have to be drawn from farmers who could get price support loans.

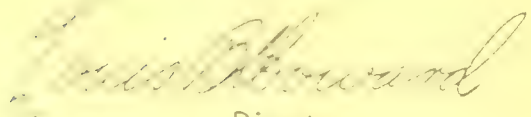
If half of the farmers in the seven leading corn states participate in the program, they will have over 1,100 million bushels eligible for price support. This is twice as much as has ever been put under price support in any previous year. Farmers will take out price support loans until the

market price rises so close to the support level that there is little or no advantage in taking the price support. The market price will tend to stabilize at that level. This may be around 10 cents below the support level.

Now suppose that participation in the feed-grain program is low, say only 25 percent in the seven leading states. Production on nonparticipating farms would provide around 3,200 million bushels of corn. This would be only about 300 million bushels less than probable domestic and export needs. Sales from CCC stocks and from "overrun" production on participating farms could easily make up the difference. Market prices might then remain well below the support level, perhaps below $1.00 a bushel.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

HOG PRICES TO SHOW SMALL FLUCTUATION IN NEXT TWO MONTHS

URBANA, ILLINOIS APRIL 26, 1961

The hog market usually works upward in May and June. It moved up in five of the past six years. Little or no improvement is expected this year. It may not be profitable to feed hogs to more than 220 pounds, hoping for a price increase.

Market receipts usually ease up in May and June. The bulk of the fall pig crop has been moved to market, and there is a mild shortage of barrows and gilts. Then, too, farmers often get busy in the fields and do not have time to take hogs to market.

The seasonal shortage may be less pronounced than usual this year. Sow farrowings began to increase (over year-before figures) last October. October and November farrowings were up 8 percent over the previous year. Barrows and gilts from these litters will be coming to market in May and June.

Farmers may sell more sows, too. The increase of 8 percent in sow farrowings apparently carried through last winter and this spring. This increase will probably provide a similar increase in marketings of sows, beginning in May. Sow marketings are usually greatest in June, July and August.

Consumer buying power is showing some signs of improvement. Employment and payrolls are increasing. But unemployment will continue to keep many families out of the meat market for several months.

Pork will meet strong competition from broilers during May and June. Whereas placements of broiler chicks held around 35 million a week in February and March last year, they increased from 38 to 45 million in the same period this year. Thus prospective market supplies of broilers are 15 to 25 percent larger than they were in 1960.

Competition from beef may also be stronger than it was a year ago. Farmers have reported plans to market 7 percent more fed cattle in the April-June quarter than they did in 1960.

(Continued)

Last year monthly average prices for barrows and gilts at midwest terminals went up nearly $2.00 a hundred pounds from April to July. The April average in 1960 was $15.96, and the July average was $17.74. This year prices in early April were in the upper part of this range. Larger supplies of pork and competitive meats seem likely to prevent any substantial price increases in hog prices in the next two months.

Now what about prices of hogs in the late summer and the fall? If prices do not go up in the next two months, they will be in a good position to resist declines later on.

The spring pig crop apparently is 8 to 10 percent larger than it was last year, but it is not excessive in relation to population and prospective consumer buying power. The price decline from summer to fall should therefore be no more, and probably less, than normal.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

FARM INCOME HAS BEEN RISING FOR 12 MONTHS

URBANA, ILLINOIS
MAY 3, 1961

Current press releases from Washington forecast that farm income will be 10 percent higher in 1961 than it was in 1960. They imply that the upturn in farm income is due to new farm programs and bigger government payments to farmers.

These press releases omit some important facts about farm income trends in the last year or so.

For example, farm income reached its low in the first quarter of 1960 and then began to increase. At the low point, farmers' realized net income was flowing at the rate of 10.2 billion dollars a year. By the last quarter of 1960, the rate of flow was up to 12.4 billion. The increase from the first quarter to the fourth quarter was 21 percent.

(The figures used in these calculations are taken from the Farm Income Situation, a publication of the USDA.)

By the first quarter of 1961, the annual rate of flow of farmers' income was up to 12.8 billion dollars, 25 percent higher than a year earlier. This increase was not due to new farm programs or to bigger government payments, but to an increase in cash receipts from farm marketings. Farm receipts were up, in part, because of higher prices for hogs, eggs and soybeans.

Many Illinois farmers report much better incomes in 1960 than in 1959. They paid income taxes on $1,000 to $2,000 more for 1960 than the year before. The incomes of hog producers were up more than average, while incomes of cash-grain producers were up less.

There were, of course, some exceptions. For example, corn growers who sold wet corn at sacrifice prices last fall had a poor year. And some cattle feeders reported losses on their feeding operations.

Gross U. S. farm income went up from an annual rate of 36.3 billion dollars in the first quarter of 1960 to 39.4 billion dollars in the first quarter of 1961. The increase was 2.9 billion dollars.

Over the same 12-month period, farm production expenses went up from 26.3 billion dollars to 26.6 billion. The increase amounted to only 0.3 billion dollars. Thus the increase in costs was only about one-tenth as much as the increase in gross receipts.

This was in sharp contrast with the general trend over the previous ten years, when costs increased much faster than gross receipts. For example, from 1955 to 1960 gross farm receipts went up 14 percent, while costs went up 20 percent.

Some farm production costs are under the control of farmers, but rapid increases in nonfarm wage rates have raised costs of farm machinery, equipment and supplies to excessive levels.

Farmers' costs are largely "Made in USA," while the market prices for their crops are strongly influenced by world-wide demands.

If the cost side of the farm business could be brought under control, the normal increase of domestic and foreign demand would begin to be reflected in increases in net farm income.

A good start was made along these lines in 1960. We hope that these gains can be held or increased this year.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS SLIP BELOW YEAR-BEFORE LEVELS

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAY 10, 1961

Average prices received by farmers declined 2 percent from March to April. This decline put prices 1 percent below the year-before level.

On the cost side of farmers' records, prices held steady at the record high which has been maintained for three months. (We can now send a man 150 miles up and bring him down alive, but we cannot seem to keep costs from going ever higher!)

Prices received by farmers in April represented 79 percent of legal "parity" compared with 80 percent one month before and one year before.

The average U. S. price of corn in April was 96 1/2 cents a bushel. This was 4 1/2 cents lower than a month before and 8 1/2 cents lower than a year before. A lower price-support level and bigger sales of government corn make for lower prices this year.

Higher prices for soybeans partly offset declines for several other farm products. The April average for soybeans was listed at $3.02 a bushel. This compares with $2.68 in March and $2.02 in April last year. The higher prices for soybeans reflect relatively short crops in the two major producing countries, China and the United States.

The average price of wheat in April was $1.74 a bushel, which was 6 cents less than in March and 7 cents less than a year before.

Oat prices averaged 58 cents a bushel in April, a cent less than in March and 10 cents cheaper than 12 months earlier.

Prices of hogs averaged $16.90 in April. This was 20 cents less than in March, but $1.40 more than in 1960. Hog prices were on the way up a year ago, but are on the way down this year.

Prices for steers and heifers averaged $22.70 in April. This was 40 cents lower than a month before and $1.60 lower than a year before. Larger market supplies this year are reflected in the lower prices.

Prices for milk averaged an even $4.00 a hundred pounds in April. This was 4 cents more than one year before. The higher price supports this year do not seem to have had much effect on market prices.

Eggs averaged 33 cents a dozen in April of this year, 3 cents less than in April 1960. Prices will be considerably lower in the year ahead than in the past 12 months because farmers are raising more pullets.

Lambs cashed at $16.10 in April, $3.90 cents lower than a year earlier. Farmers and ranchers seem to be selling many ewe lambs that might have been kept in breeding flocks.

The cost side of the farm business has shown more stability in the past year than at any other time since World War II. The index of prices paid has held at less than a 1 percent change over the past 12 months. This could be a good sign for farmers. If costs are stabilized, increased consumer demand could get through to farmers' pocketbooks.

About 90 percent of the consumer's food dollar goes to cover marketing expenses and farm operating costs. When these expenses and costs are marked up because of wage increases or other reasons, it cuts severely into net farm incomes.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

HOG PRICES AND PROSPECTS SHOW UNUSUAL STABILITY

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAY 17, 1961

Hog prices at midwest terminal markets have held closely around $16 and $17 for 12 months. During this time hog producers made some very good profits. These served to replenish farmers' bank accounts that had been depleted by low prices for hogs in the previous 12-month period.

The next 12 months seem likely to be midway, profitwise, between these two latest 12-month periods.

As every hog producer knows, hog marketings and pork output have been relatively light during the past 12 months. Recently, however, market receipts and pork output have equaled year-before levels.

Looking ahead to the summer and fall, market supplies will probably be midway between those of last year and the year before. Prices, too, seem likely to fall about midway between 1960 and 1959 levels, which would be around $16 for the summer and $15 for the fall.

The projected price pattern is slightly unusual in two respects: (1) it does not anticipate a normal seasonal price rise from spring to summer, and (2) it does not anticipate a full normal seasonal price decline from summer to fall.

There are some reasons for expecting these deviations from the usual price patterns. In the first place, we are at the turning point in the hog marketing cycle. From now on we expect market receipts to run 6 to 10 percent larger than the year before. Increased supplies compared with last year, plus more competition from other meats, will likely hold prices of hogs slightly below the $17 monthly averages posted last summer.

Market supplies will be only moderately larger during the fall than during the summer. The reason is that farmers increased their 1961 spring farrowings only about half enough to offset the big cut they made last year.

If we have appraised the early summer market correctly, it will not pay to delay marketing hogs in anticipation of substantial price increases. It may pay to hold back for a few days when prices have broken sharply. But advances may be temporary bulges, rather than the beginning of a longer trend.

When we focus on 1962, we have to resort to guesswork. We try to guess whether farmers will increase or decrease hog production, and how much.

The present expansion trend may continue into next year. The hog-corn price ratio seems likely to be average, or better, this fall at the breeding time for 1962 spring pigs.

The new feed-grain program complicates the picture. Farmers who comply and become eligible for price support for corn may cut back hog production. But those who do not comply may increase their hog business in order to provide a market for their corn. It may be a close game.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAY 24, 1961

CATTLE FEEDERS LOVE THEIR WORK (?)

Produce Steak For Little Profit

We hope that the farmers who produced those juicy steaks for today's dinners loved their work. They received little financial reward for their efforts.

Recent market prices for choice steers were mostly $24 a hundred pounds compared with $27.50 a year before and with $29.25 two years ago. Prices have been depressed by heavy sales of cattle out of feedlots and off wheat pastures, and by a weak consumer demand because of the business recession.

There may be no quick recovery from present price levels. Supplies of beef and competitive meats are expected to continue above year-before levels, while no real business boom is in sight to stimulate demand for the more expensive grades and cuts.

Cattle feeders will remember that the April report of cattle on feed showed 5 percent more cattle in feedlots this year than last. A slightly larger share of them were headed for market in the April-May-June quarter this year than in 1960.

Competition from broilers will be at a record level. Production is up 15 to 20 percent from last year. No cutback is in sight for at least 90 days.

The pork picture does not provide much encouragement for cattlemen. For nearly a year now the output of pork has been running less than 12 months earlier. But from now on, supplies may be 5 to 8 percent larger than they were a year before.

The lower prices for cattle this year were forecast last fall. At that time we expressed the opinion that prices would average $1 to $2 a hundred pounds lower in 1961 than in 1960. In 1960 the monthly average prices for choice steers at Chicago ranged from a high of $28.08 in March to a low of $24.80 in September. The high this year was in January, at $27.42.

In the first four months of this year prices averaged $26.08, or $1.17 lower than a year before. In the last eight months of last year, the average price of choice steers at Chicago was

$25.88. If prices are $1 or $2 lower this year, the average for the remainder of this year will be in the $24 to $25 bracket. A low monthly average of less than $24 may be recorded.

There is some basis for expecting prices to improve in the last half of this year. The 7 percent reduction last winter in the official estimates of cattle numbers may give ranchers and farmers increased optimism. They may hold a few more cows and heifers to enlarge breeding herds. This action could mildly restrict marketings for slaughter during the last half of this year and in 1962.

On the other side of the balance, the southwestern range states from Texas to Utah and California report serious drouth areas. If this drouth persists or worsens, substantial numbers of cattle will have to be moved to market or to other areas. This might become an important market price factor by midsummer.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

U. S. HOG PRICES ARE NEAR THOSE IN OTHER COUNTRIES

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAY 31, 1961

One of the fictions going the rounds of farm circles recently is that prices of farm products are much higher in other countries than in the United States. Therefore, it is argued, it should be easy to raise prices in our country without pricing ourselves out of foreign markets.

A specific example recently reported to us concerned the prices of hogs. According to this story, hog prices in 1958 were only $14 a hundred pounds in the United States, but $24 a hundred in Canada and $40 a hundred in Germany. We were asked to check these quoted figures.

We spent half a day checking official market reports of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agriculture of Canada and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Here is what we found:

1. In the year 1958 the average price of hogs in the United States was not $14, but $20.25 a hundred pounds. This was for barrows and gilts at the eight leading midwest markets.

2. We found an average price of $29 a hundred pounds for dressed hogs at Toronto, Canada. This 100 pounds of dressed hogs represented at least 133 pounds of live hogs, so the quoted price was equal to $21.75 for live hogs at Toronto.

But there is more to be considered. Toronto is an eastern market, not far from Buffalo, New York. Prices for hogs at Buffalo are usually at least $1 a hundred pounds higher than prices at our midwest markets. So, to get a price that is comparable with our midwestern markets, we need to take a dollar off the Toronto price. This reduces the Canadian figure to $20.75, or only 40 cents a hundred pounds higher than our midwest market price. Even this small difference may have been due to the superior quality of the hogs at Toronto.

We checked further to find whether this close relationship still holds. We found that it does. During the week ended April 22, prices of Grade B hogs at Toronto (there are four grades, A to D)

averaged $24.50, dressed. This is equivalent to a price of $18.40 for live weight. During the same week prices for Nos. 1 and 2 200- to 220-pound barrows and gilts averaged $18.69 at Baltimore (an eastern U. S. market) and $17.42 at Chicago.

3. Prices of hogs and many other agricultural products are somewhat higher in Germany than in the United States. This is largely because Germany is a feed-and-food deficit and importing country, while the United States is an exporting country. We found that the average price for 220- to 264-pound hogs at 64 markets in Germany in 1958 was $26.20 a hundred pounds. This is only about $5 higher than the price in the United States, not $26 higher as claimed in the fictional story. Much of the price spread between U. S. and German markets reflects transportation costs from our corn belt to the German farm areas. Germany buys large amounts of both corn and soybeans from us, using both in animal feeds.

The point is that prices of hogs in the United States are reasonably close to prices in other countries, after allowing for costs of transportation. Thus it would not be so easy as the stories imply to greatly raise the price of hogs in the United States. The same principle holds for our other major farm products.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

SOME PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE FEED-GRAIN PROGRAM

URBANA, ILLINOIS JUNE 7, 1961

Farmers are going big for the Feed-Grain Program. They have signed up to idle about 24 percent of their corn and grain sorghum land. What will be the results?

The acreage retired may be less than the acreage signed up. The signup involved only a sort of option to divert corn and sorghum grain land to nonproductive uses. Some farmers will decide not to participate. Others will retire less than the maximum number of acres listed. But the dropout seems likely to be fairly small.

Suppose that at least 20 percent of the corn acreage is retired. This would not mean that production would be reduced 20 percent. There are several reasons: (1) The retired acreage will be the lower yielding land. (2) Some nonparticipating farmers will increase their corn acreages. (3) Some farmers, whether or not they participate, will use more fertilizer and adopt other yield-boosting practices.

Farmers have harvested about 83 million acres of corn in each of the two years since acreage allotments were dropped. If they harvest 20 percent less this fall, they will be taking corn from 66.2 million acres.

Average yield on the harvested acres (which will be better than average land) seems likely to be two bushels higher than the 53-bushel average posted last year. That would produce about 3,640 million bushels.

Disappearance (domestic use and export) totaled about 4,000 million bushels last year and seems likely to run to 4,100 million bushels this marketing year.

We know that disappearance varies with price changes, more corn is used when the price is low. Disappearance increased by one-third (1,000 million bushels) when the price was reduced from about $1.50 in the early 1950s to $1.12 in 1959-60. The price this year may average about $1.03, counting the grain "sold" to Uncle Sam at the support level of $1.06.

We might guess that disappearance of corn in the 1961-62 marketing year will total around 4,000 million bushels. Increases in numbers of livestock and poultry to be fed may be largely offset by a reduction in use on account of the price increase.

In this case the 1961 crop would be about 360 million bushels short of needs. CCC sales of corn would make up the difference. Actual sales of CCC corn will probably exceed 360 million bushels. But farmers will have around 1,000 million bushels of new corn eligible for price support. Most of them will not sell at prices much below the support level. The more corn the CCC sells, the more farmers will put under price support. Thus the market price seems likely to rise to near the support level.

Let's make some more guesses: If our carryover this fall is 2,000 million bushels and if the crop is around 3,640 million as we expect, our total supply for 1961-62 will be 5,640 million bushels. Subtract 4,000 million for use and export, and we would still have 1,640 million bushels for carryover on October 1, 1962. That would be more corn than we carried over in any year before last fall.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS JUNE 14, 1961

THE MIDYEAR OUTLOOK FOR POULTRY IS MIXED

EGGS: The outlook for egg prices has improved in recent weeks. There are two reasons: (1) Storage stocks of eggs are much smaller than last year, and (2) farmers have eased up on their purchases of egg-type chicks.

A recent report showed that the number of shell and frozen eggs in storage was equal to about 3 1/2 days' consumption in all forms. A year before, storage stocks were equal to the number of eggs consumed in five days. The comparatively small stocks strengthen the price prospects for the July-September quarter.

Egg producers apparently have been studying outlook reports. These reports showed that farmers bought 29 percent more egg-type chicks in the January-March quarter of this year than in the same three months of 1960. But then they cut back. Total purchases of egg-type chicks for the first six months of this year will be only about 6 percent more than last year. Such purchases are not excessive, since the figures for last year were quite low. The cutback in chick purchases improves the outlook for 1962.

It now appears that egg production in the third quarter of this year, July-September, will be about the same as one year before. With the smaller storage stocks, prices should therefore be at least equal to those of last year, when the average price received by Illinois farmers was 27 cents a dozen.

The outlook for October-December is fair. Prices received by Illinois farmers may average about 31 cents a dozen, or halfway between the very good prices received last year and the poor prices received in 1959. Government purchases are expected to provide some support for the market.

As of now, prices of eggs in the first half of next year, 1962, appear likely to be two or three cents a dozen lower than in the past six months.

BROILERS. The old saying that "The night is darkest just before the dawn" seems to apply to the broiler situation. Recent prices for live birds were mostly 11 to 13 cents a pound compared with 17 to 19 cents a year ago.

The good prices of 1960 made substantial profits for producers. This, together with some expectation that production quotas would be established, led to an increase of 20 to 25 percent in the output of broilers in recent months.

The low prices of broilers in recent weeks are causing producers to cut back to near 1960 levels of output. Thus a start has been made to restore prices to profitable levels.

TURKEYS. The outlook is very favorable--for consumers. Supplies for the holiday season promise to be nearly one-fourth greater than last year. Retailers will feature turkey at attractive prices before, during and after the Thanksgiving-Christmas holiday season.

Government purchases may be increased above those of recent years, but this possibility cannot be expected to support prices at last year's levels. Prices to farmers may average about 20 or 21 cents a pound compared with 25 cents last year.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

U. S. FARM PRODUCTS GO "AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS"

URBANA, ILLINOIS JUNE 21, 1961

Each working day we load 20 million dollars' worth of farm products on ocean-going ships. Within 80 days these products are being used in more than 100 different foreign countries.

In the past 12 months we have shipped five billion dollars' worth of agricultural products to foreign markets. This amount was 12 percent more than we exported the year before, and an all-time record high. The exports represented the production of about 60 million acres, or nearly three times the harvested acreage on Illinois farms.

Leading exports. In 1960 we exported 28 percent of the nation's soybean crop, and the oil from 18 percent more. We exported 15 percent of the corn that was moved off farms, nearly 50 percent of our wheat, over 50 percent of our cotton, 40 percent of our rice, 27 percent of our tobacco, 20 percent of our barley and 16 percent of our sorghum grain. In addition, we exported 1 1/2 billion dollars' worth of meats, lard, tallow, hides, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, seeds and many other farm products.

Trade and aid. Our farm exports are classified in three groups, depending upon how much government aid or subsidy is involved: (1) Last year we sold about 40 percent of our farm exports, including all of our soybeans, for dollars without any government aid or subsidy. (2) We sold an additional 30 percent for dollars, but with some government aid in the form of short-term credit or special prices. For example, much of the corn that was exported was sold at 3 to 10 cents a bushel less than going market prices, while we sold about half of the wheat we exported at 40 to 60 cents a bushel under our market prices. (3) We shipped the remaining 30 percent of our agricultural exports under special export-foreign aid programs. Wheat is by far the biggest volume product exported under these foreign aid programs.

(Continued)

Our customers. Our best cash customers for our farm products are the highly industrialized countries--England (U.K.), Japan, Canada, West Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and Belgium. India receives the most foreign aid shipments, but we also ship large amounts to Poland, Spain, UAR-Egypt and Pakistan.

Benefits of trade. The export of farm products benefits the United States in many ways. It furnishes employment and income for the farmers who produce the products and for the men who process and transport them. It gives us some of the money we need for purchasing many essential raw materials and useful manufactured products from foreign countries. It provides money for maintaining national defense bases beyond our boundaries. And it reduces the drain on our gold supplies and thus helps to maintain the value of our money and to prevent inflation.

Finally, and most importantly, our foreign trade, exports and imports of all kinds, helps to raise the standard of living in our own and other countries and to strengthen the free world.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

HOG PRICES ARE EXPECTED TO BE UNUSUALLY STABLE IN NEXT 12 MONTHS

URBANA, ILLINOIS JUNE 28, 1961

What is the outlook on hogs? More than usual price stability over the next 12 months! This is the conclusion that we draw from a study of the latest USDA Pig Crop Report.

Here are the reasons for expecting the hog market to have unusual price stability: (1) farmers are increasing hog production only moderately and (2) this year's spring and fall pig crops are unusually well balanced.

Farmers will raise only 5 percent more pigs this year than they did in 1960. About half of this increase may be offset by population growth and increased consumer-buying power.

Our population increases about 1 2/3 percent a year. And the business recovery is giving people more money to spend, and making them more willing to spend it.

The spring and fall pig crops will be much better balanced this year than in most recent years. This year's spring pig crop was about 54 percent of the expected total, and the fall pig crop will be about 46 percent. In the 10 years, 1950-1959, 59 percent of the pigs were in the spring crop and only 41 percent in the fall crop. However, the balance is not quite so good this year as it was last year, when the spring pig crop provided 53 percent of the total, and the fall pig crop 47 percent.

The Pig Crop Report showed that farmers saved 50,456,000 spring pigs this year. This was 7 percent more than last year, but 7 percent less than the 10-year 1950-1959 average.

The report also showed that farmers were planning to have 2 percent more sows farrow this fall than were farrowed a year before. A 2-percent increase in sow farrowings is expected to provide an increase of 3 percent in the number of fall pigs saved. This would provide about 42,500,000 pigs, or 14 percent more than the 10-year average.

(Continued)

Prospective market supplies of hogs for the July-September quarter are about 6 percent larger than last year. Consumer-buying power may be better than a year before, but supplies of broilers and beef may also be larger. Prices for barrows and gilts at midwest terminals seem likely to fall a little short of the $17.00 level maintained in 1960.

There will be a moderate increase in marketings in the October-December quarter, more so than last year. Prospective market supplies are 8 to 10 percent larger than for 1960. Where prices worked up last year, it seems best to figure on a moderate decline this year. Returns from hogs should be good enough to pay some bills, but not big enough to encourage excessive production in 1962.

The feed-grain program--reduced production and higher price support for the 1961 crops--has probably worked to slow down the expansion in hog production. This improves hog price prospects, but it also cuts down on the use of corn.

In summary, the hog outlook is about as good as we can reasonably expect. Prospective prices are good enough to give the producer some reward for his efforts--but not good enough to bring about an overexpansion.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

SEVERE DROUGHT IN NORTHERN PLAINS AND SOUTHWEST BALANCED BY GOOD CROPS IN OTHER AREAS

URBANA, ILLINOIS JULY 5, 1961

Weather conditions have been generally favorable for crop growth in the eastern half of the nation, but too hot and dry in much of the western half.

Northern and western Illinois has suffered some from lack of rain. The southern tip counties had far too much. The area in between is generally in good shape. Crops are average or better in most of Illinois, though corn is smaller than usual where excessive rains delayed planting.

Most of the remainder of the corn belt is in good condition. Exceptions are southern Indiana, which had too much rain, and southeastern Iowa which was in the drought area that covered western and northern Illinois. This same drought belt extended into southern Wisconsin and over much of Michigan.

The central and southern Great Plains have had a favorable season. This area includes Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and northern Texas. Central and south Texas was dry early, but received big rains in June.

The Northern Plains, including the Dakotas and most of Montana, had an unusually hot, dry spring. This drought area extended into Canada and thus cuts prospects for hard spring wheat in both countries. Ranges are poor, the hay crop is short, and water for cattle is also in short supply. Shortages of feed and water have forced some ranchers to sell cattle. As often happens, the drought is accompanied by severe outbreaks of grasshoppers.

Another large drought area has covered most of five states in the southwest--Utah, Nevada, southern California, Arizona and New Mexico. Many areas report shortages of water for livestock or irrigation.

Poor conditions in the northern Great Plains and the southwest are offset by average to better prospects in other areas.

Conditions in the midwest are, as we stated before, generally favorable for crop growth and livestock.

Most of the eastern half of the country received average or better rainfall in the past four months. Heavy rains in June covered broad areas of the south and east. These rains delayed harvesting in the south and planting and cultivation in the eastern states.

Greater-than-average rainfall often delays planting over large areas, and causes crop losses in small areas. But general crop failures are seldom caused by too much rain.

The southern and eastern states generally report adequate to excessive soil moisture. This condition is favorable for pastures, and for the production of average or bigger crops.

The total situation, over the whole nation, is about average. As usual, there are some bad spots, but this is normal.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

1961 CORN CROP CUT 18 PERCENT BELOW CROP OF LAST YEAR

URBANA, ILLINOIS JULY 12, 1961

The government crop report for July provides a new view of the results of the feed-grain program. This report gives the first official estimate of corn production this year.

This first official forecast sets the 1961 corn crop at 3,175 million bushels, which is 18 percent less than last year.

[NOTE. The corn crop forecast this year and the comparison with last year refer only to corn harvested for grain. The figures do not include corn used, or to be used, for silage and forage. Previous forecasts and estimates of production generally included all corn, including the grain in corn, used for silage and forage. Last year, when the total corn crop was estimated at 4,353 million bushels, nearly 10 percent of the crop was used for silage and forage.]

How much will surplus stocks of corn be cut as a result of the feed-grain program? This question can never be answered with certainty, because we will never know what would have happened without it. But we can make some forecasts of changes in carry-over stocks.

Carry-over stocks of old corn next October 1 will total around 2,000 million bushels. Adding to this carry-over the indicated 1961 crop of 3,175 million bushels will make a total supply of 5,175 million bushels.

But how much corn will be used and exported in the 1961-62 marketing year? Since most of our corn is fed to livestock on our own farms, the big problem is to guess how much farmers will feed. Many farmers who have cut their corn acreages, particularly those outside the main cash-corn areas, will also cut back the amount they feed to livestock. Some other farmers will also cut their use of corn in response to higher prices next year.

Biggest recorded use of corn for feed was about 3,150 million bushels in 1959-60. The amount may be a little higher this present year, probably around 3,200 million. It could easily

drop back to 3,000 million next year, 1961-62, but that would still be far above the average of about 2,500 million bushels used annually in the five years ending in 1959.

Commercial uses and exports might take another 550 million bushels, making total disappearance around 3,550 million. Subtracting this amount from the total supply of 5,175 million would leave 1,625 million bushels on hand October 1, 1962.

SOYBEANS. The acreage of soybeans being grown for beans was listed as 27.1 million, or 14 percent more than last year. There will be no official forecast of acre yields and total production of beans until August 10. Stocks of soybeans on farms July 1 were estimated at 12 million bushels, 70 percent less than one year earlier.

WHEAT. Production of wheat is estimated at 1,257 million bushels, 7 percent less than last year. Drouth in the big spring wheat states--North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana--sharply cut the spring wheat part of the crop.

OATS. The oat crop is estimated at 961 million bushels, 16 percent less than last year. The acreage of oats was reduced to get idle land in order to comply with the feed-grain program.

Production estimates for sorghum grain and barley will not be released until August 10.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

NUMBER OF CATTLE ON FEED IS UP ONLY 2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

URBANA, ILLINOIS JULY 19, 1961

Farmers were feeding 5,752,000 head of cattle, including calves, on July 1. This was only 2 percent more than they were feeding a year before. These figures are from the latest government quarterly survey of cattle and calves on feed.

Reports obtained from farmers showed that they would sell about 3,297,000 head of these cattle during this third quarter. This number would be 3 percent more than was sold in the same quarter last year. We would consider this increase to be normal or less.

In the second quarter of this year, farmers sold 9 percent more fed cattle than they sold in the corresponding three months of 1960. Thus the increase of only 3 percent indicated for this quarter is comparatively small.

The biggest increases in cattle on feed this year are, for a change, not in the west. In fact, feeding in the western states is down 3 percent. The biggest increases are in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Illinois and Indiana.

The weights of cattle on feed this summer are somewhat different from those of a year ago. There is an increase of about 10 percent in the number of steers in the 700- to 900-pound bracket and a similar increase in weights over 1,100 pounds. There is also a small increase in numbers of heifers weighing over 700 pounds. Numbers of heifers and steers weighing less than 700 pounds are down 6 percent.

Beef output was about 5 percent larger in the first half of this year than in the same period of 1960. Other price-depressing factors were the business recession and the flood of competition from broilers. The only price-supporting item was a shortage of pork, down 5 percent from last year.

As a result of the bearish forces, prices of Choice steers averaged about $2.00 a hundred pounds lower in the first half of this year than in the first half of 1960.

We have reasons to expect considerable price improvement during the remainder of this year. Beef output will be only moderately larger than it was a year before. The increase may be around 3 percent, and it will be offset by an increase in population and by greater consumer buying power.

Population has increased nearly 2 percent in the past year. About 1 percent more people have jobs now than were working a year ago. Average weekly earnings of those at work are up 2 to 3 percent.

Competition from broilers is expected to ease off, though supplies still may exceed those of 12 months before.

Bearish factors in the cattle market will be increasing supplies of pork and turkey. The spring pig crop was up 7 percent. Farmers may bunch marketings of hogs in October or early November. The supply of turkey may be 20 to 25 percent larger than it was last year. This will be hard on the market for beef in the holiday season.

Prices of Choice steers at Chicago averaged $25.56 a hundred pounds in the last half of 1960. They should do no worse than $24.00 in the last half of this year. In order to average that, prices would have to rise to $25.00 or higher by the end of the year.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

SUPPLY OF REPLACEMENT CATTLE SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN LAST YEAR

URBANA, ILLINOIS JULY 26, 1961

The supply of replacement cattle appears to be slightly larger than it was a year ago. Prices will depend mostly upon what farmers are willing to pay.

The total United States calf crop is reported to be up only 1 percent from that of last year. But a smaller share of these calves are out of dairy cows. The number of calves from beef-type cows may be up 2 or 3 percent.

Illinois farmers draw most of their feeder cattle from the Great Plains states and from Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennesee. The calf crops in these states are up about 2 percent from a year ago.

Slaughter of calves in the first half of this year was about 1 percent less than it was a year before. This decline probably resulted from the reduction in numbers of milk cows.

The number of yearlings available for feeding may not be much different from what it was a year ago. Most of the range states carried over about 2 percent more calves last winter than the year before.

Range conditions are mixed. Severe drouths in some areas have been offset by unusually favorable weather in other places.

The most severe drouth has been along the Canadian border. It has burned crops and ranges in North Dakota and Montana and adjoining areas. A less severe drouth plagues the far southwest--Utah, Nevada, Arizona and southern California.

Conditions in the southern states, sweeping from New Mexico and Texas to the Atlantic Coast, are much better than they were last year.

More cattle will be moved out of the Northern Plains this year than in 1960. Recent prices were down $1 to $3 a hundred pounds from a year before. But if too many buyers go "looking for bargains," the asking prices will go up.

Texas had a dry spring but an abundance of rain later. Texas and the other southern states seem likely to be stronger bidders for cattle than they were last year.

The feed-grain program may tend to reduce the demand for feeder cattle. Farmers will have considerably less corn, sorghum grain, oats and barley to feed. Furthermore, the cost of these feed grains is almost certain to be higher than it has been this past year.

The government will sell more corn than it has sold in recent years. CCC sales may be greater than ever before. But these sales do not seem likely to be big enough to offset the effects of the smaller crop and the higher price support level.

Prospects point to prices for fat cattle about the same in 1962 as in 1961. Market receipts may be a bit larger. Supplies of competitive meats are likely to be a little heavier. These increases in supplies could be just about balanced by an increase in consumer buying power.

The market outlook, as we see it, shows a need for buying replacement cattle at prices $3 to $4 a hundred pounds lower than last fall.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

BUSINESS OUTLOOK: A MILD RECOVERY

URBANA, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 2, 1961

The level of business activity is still an important force affecting prices of many farm products. For example, the recent business recession was an important force in depressing the price of beef cattle.

Three aspects of the recession cut into the demand for beef: (1) unemployment, (2) fear of being laid off and (3) a tightening of business expense accounts.

The unemployed had less money to spend. They passed by the more costly foods like steak and roasts. Some who feared that they would be laid off also tightened up on their spending in order to build up a little cushion for use in an emergency. As company sales volumes declined, many firms became very cost-conscious. Salesmen and other company officials were told to cut expenses. One way of doing so was to pass up the high-priced steak dinners for more economical meals--chicken, for example.

Of course, somebody ate all of the beef that was produced. But not until prices were cut, usually in special sales.

Business activity has been increasing since last spring. Industrial output started up in April. By June it had increased about 9 percent, reaching the highest levels attained in 1960 and 1959.

The flow of personal income began to rise in March. It surpassed the 1960 peak rate of $410 billion in April, but further increases have been slow.

Businessmen talk optimistically, especially since the President announced plans for increasing military spending by $5 billion. But it takes more than optimism to create a real boom.

Much of this business recovery is built out of short-lived material. Businessmen have been building up their stocks of goods, but this cannot continue. Retail sales have not kept pace with the build-up of inventories.

Increased federal spending is a "shot-in-the-arm" that wears off in a few months. We have already had one shot this year. We get the next from boosting military spending.

Housing construction has recovered to 1960 levels. But over 8 percent of all rental units (apartments and houses) are vacant, and the vacancy rate is rising. This is not a good climate for a sustained housing boom.

Spending for new plants and equipment is the foundation for strong economic growth. Such spending totals less than $35 billion this year, down from $36 billion in 1960 and well below the record level of $38 billion set in 1957. This kind of business investment is now increasing a little, and optimists hope for much larger increases in 1962. But many industries--steel and automobiles, for example--already have more productive capacity than they can profitably use.

Another dampening factor is that much business expansion is financed out of profits. And profits have shrunk about one-third in the past 24 months.

From the viewpoint of a cattle feeder or other farmer, the present business outlook is better than it was a year ago. Last fall we were entering a mild recession. Now we are in what appears to be a mild recovery. It seems likely to hold up through most of 1962.

International developments may drastically change the outlook at any time. On this point only one fact is clear: there will be no real peace in the year ahead.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

HOG PRICES MAY HOLD UP BETTER THAN USUAL THIS FALL

URBANA, ILLINOIS AUG. 9, 1961

The summer hog market has been better than we had expected. The principal reason seems to be that market supplies have not come up to expectations.

According to government reports, sow farrowings went over year-before levels beginning last October. This change suggested that by May market supplies would begin to exceed corresponding levels of last year. So far, however, market supplies have been almost exactly the same as they were in 1960. Prices also have been just about the same as they were last summer.

But what's ahead?

Turning back to the last pig crop report, we find that sow farrowings were almost exactly the same in January, February and March as they had been one year before. But the number of hogs three to six months old on farms in 10 leading states on June 1 was 6 percent above the year before. These figures imply that farmers saved considerably more pigs per litter this year than in 1960. But marketings do not yet reflect any increase in hog production.

The only significant increase in sow farrowings last spring was in April and May. According to the government report, farrowings were 9 percent greater in those months than a year before. A companion figure, the number of pigs under three months old on hand June 1, also showed an increase of 9 percent.

For several years farmers have been starting their spring pigs earlier. This year was apparently an exception. Farrowings in the first four months--December through March--of the spring farrowing season were unchanged from last year, but April and May show increases. This suggests that the market may hold up fairly well through the late summer and early fall.

About 49 percent of the spring pigs were farrowed in March and April. These pigs will be coming to market mostly in October and November.

Another way to look at the hog situation is to compare the number of spring pigs with the number produced the previous fall. We find that farmers produced 22 percent more spring pigs than fall pigs. Last spring, 1960, they produced only 10 percent more than in the previous fall. But that was very unusual. In the three years before 1960, the spring pig crops averaged 39 percent larger than the previous fall pig crops.

For a really horrible example, we can go back to 1955. In that long-to-be-remembered year, farmers produced a spring pig crop that was 70 percent greater than the preceding fall pig crop! And then we wondered why the price of hogs dropped to $10 a hundred pounds.

The fact that the 1961 spring pig crop is smaller than average, in comparison with the previous fall crop, gives us recson to expect that the seasonal price decline will be less than usual this fall. When we have strong prices in the summer, the fall decline is usually mild. In the three years 1956-58, the average decline was about 15 percent ($3) from the summer average to the last-quarter average. The market seems likely to do as well or better this fall.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

CROP PROSPECTS EXCELLENT OVER MOST OF NATION
DROUTH IN NORTHERN PLAINS AND FAR WEST

URBANA, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 16, 1961

Development of the bumper corn crop weakens price prospects. But the increase in production will more than offset any price decline.

Almost all corn-producing areas have prospects for high yields this year. The midwest, which had an excellent crop last year, will have even higher yields this time. The 1961 corn crop is estimated at 3,352 million bushels, only 14 percent short of the record set last year. Average yield is figured at 57.5 bushels per acre, 3 bushels more than a year ago.

Because of the unusually high yields, many farmers who participated in the feed-grain program will have considerably more corn than they can place under price support. This excess will be available for feeding or sale. Most of the supply not needed for feed on the farm where it is produced will be eligible for price support at $1.20 a bushel, national average. However, the market price is expected to be high enough to keep some eligible corn out of the price-support loan.

The soybean crop is forecast at 683 million bushels, up 22 percent, or 124 million bushels, from last fall. The acreage is up 14 percent and the estimated per acre yield up 7 percent.

The prospective soybean crop is considerably larger than prospective use and experts. A substantial quantity of beans will be carried over in the fall of 1962. The government will pay $2.30 a bushel for them. If no one else is willing to pay more, the support level will become the market price.

Farmers have not been so successful in raising bean yields as in boosting yields of corn. Over the past 13 years they have boosted average corn yields 50 percent, but bean yields are up only 20 percent. Our big increases in bean production have come from increased acreage, while the increase in corn output has come from higher yields.

Short crops of other feed grains will concentrate more demand on corn in the year ahead.

Production of sorghum grain is forecast at 455 million bushels, 25 percent below 1960. Production of oats is reported at 982 million, or 15 percent less than a year ago. The barley crop is listed at 368 million, off 14 percent from last year.

Hay production, too, is less than it was in 1960. Estimated at 110 million tons, this year's crop is 7 percent short of last year's output.

Pastures are generally good to excellent in the Corn Belt and Eastern and Great Lakes dairy areas. The Central and Southern Great Plains also have excellent pastures and ranges.

Severe drouth persists in the Northern Plains, especially North Dakota, Montana and northern Minnesota. There are several lesser drouth areas west of the Rocky Mountains.

The wheat crop is estimated at 1,204 million bushels, 12 percent short of the 1960 outturn.

Whereas the cut in production of feed grains and hay may be attributed to the feed-grain program, the decrease in wheat was caused by extreme drouth in the Dakotas, Montana and Minnesota.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS AUG. 23, 1961

THE MILK SURPLUS IS REAPPEARING

Surplus milk production almost disappeared last year. But surpluses have been increasing this year--in part at least because of the boosting of price-support levels.

The dairy marketing year begins April 1. In the first three months of this marketing year, the Commodity Credit Corporation bought 127 million pounds of butter in order to support prices. This was 95 percent more than had to be purchased in the same period a year before. During the same months the CCC purchased 21 million pounds of cheese in order to support prices. Less than one percent of this amount had to be purchased in the same period a year earlier.

In the entire marketing year ended last March, the CCC had to buy only 154 million pounds of butter and only two-tenths of a million pounds of cheese.

The important point is that farmers had adjusted milk production very closely to the amount that could be sold at the prices prevailing in 1960. The boost in price support level this year disturbs this balance in two ways: (1) It eliminates some family purchases and (2) it encourages farmers to step up the production of milk.

In the first half of this year, milk production was estimated at 65.4 billion pounds, or about one percent more than a year before. In the second half, it is expected to exceed year-before levels by a wider margin.

The milk-feed price ratio is more favorable than it has been in most recent years. This ratio was 1.37 in July. This means that 1.37 pounds of dairy concentrate ration was equal in value to one pound of milk. The 10-year average for the month is only 1.23. In other words, the price of milk is a little higher than average in relation to the price of feed.

Another factor that affects milk production is the relation of the price of milk to the price of beef cattle. Over the past two years the support level for milk used in manufacturing has been

increased from $3.06 a hundred pounds to $3.40. In contrast, during the same time the price of Choice steers has declined from an average of $27.83 in 1959 to around $25.00 so far this year. This improvement in milk prices relative to beef prices slows the changeover of many farms from dairying to beef production. A considerable changeover is essential every year in order to offset the increased production by farmers who stay in the dairy business.

Government policy on feed-grain prices will also have some effect on the amount of milk farmers produce. If CCC sales of corn are large enough to keep the market price 20 cents below the support level, it will serve to encourage heavy feeding of dairy cows.

Fortunately there are some factors working to slow the increase in milk production. One is the rise in costs of production items other than feed. Prices of equipment and machinery used on dairy farms have been inching upward almost every year.

The government's feed-grain program is another restraining factor. It may be helping some small dairymen out of business. It reduces the total output of feed and makes the farmer less dependent on the milk check.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

IS IT TIME TO CHANGE SOME CATTLE-FEEDING PROGRAMS?

URBANA, ILLINOIS SEPT. 6, 1961

In general, profits from feeding cattle have been small in recent years. Records of many droves show actual losses. In some cases cash returns have been too small to cover even the cost of cattle and feed.

But there have been important exceptions. For example, the farmers who had cattle to sell in the months from December through May generally made some profit. Best profits were made on cattle sold in March, April and May. This suggests that some cattle feeders might well revise their feeding programs.

For many years before 1958, prices of fat cattle tended to be low in the spring and high in the late summer and the fall. The reason was that most of the cattle put on feed were two and three years old. Ranchers sold them in the fall. Corn-belt farmers put them into their feedlots for three to six months of grain feeding and sold them in the winter and spring.

In recent years most cattle have been put into feedlots as calves or short yearlings. The younger cattle are usually fed on roughage for a few months to get some cheap gains. They are not ready for winter or spring markets. Large numbers are sold in the summer and early fall. This tends to depress prices of fat cattle in these seasons.

It would be unwise to expect prices of fed cattle to peak out in the first half of every year. But it seems likely that over a period of years prices will be at least as good in the first six months as in the last.

Prices of cheap cattle have always followed the "high spring—low fall" pattern. The reason is that farmers and ranchers sell more of such cattle in the fall than in the spring. Marketings are larger in the fall because of sales of cattle near the end of the range and pasture season. Most ranchers, and many farmers, can handle many more cattle on pasture than they can carry through

(Continued)

the winter on hay and other roughage. The resulting seasonal swings in market prices for common cattle provide a good foundation for the "high spring—low fall" pattern for prices of fed cattle.

There is another important factor that is helping the spring market for fed cattle. It is the leveling-out of hog production. Hog marketings used to be very heavy in December, January and February and light during the summer months. Now marketings are spread more evenly throughout the year. There is no shortage of pork during the summer to divert increased demand to beef.

The big increase in broiler production, too, works against a rise in prices of fed cattle during the summer. Outdoor cooking, with chicken on the charcoal, often leaves the higher priced cuts of beef on the retail counter--at least until prices are cut to bargain levels.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

PRICE PROSPECTS FOR FAT CATTLE

URBANA, ILLINOIS SEPT. 13, 1961

Fat cattle prices seem likely to trend upward over the next six months. Several things point in this direction:

1. Prices are starting from the lowest levels in several years. There is plenty of room to go up.

2. Business activity is increasing, giving consumers more money to spend for beef. This situation is just the opposite from that of a year ago.

3. Compared with recent months, the supply of broilers is declining. With fewer broilers on retail counters, Mrs. Homemaker will be a more willing buyer of beef.

4. The supply of pork is comparatively light, and it will increase less than usual during the fall months.

5. The supply of fat, heavy cattle should ease off soon. This is one expected consequence of the drop in prices of Choice cattle from about $27.50 last January to $22.50 in June.

6. Cows and other low grades of cattle have been selling well--often at prices well above those of a year before. This provides a good foundation for a rise in prices of the higher grades.

For all of 1962, beef production is expected to be slightly larger than it has been this year. The number of cattle slaughtered could increase 4 or 5 percent, but average slaughter weights will probably be down from 1961 figures.

If the beef output increases no more than 2 or 3 percent, it would be offset by increasing consumer demand. Consequently, cattle prices appear likely to average about the same in 1962 as in 1961.

Costs of gains figure to be a little higher. Corn will cost more because the crop is smaller than it was last year and the price-support level is higher. Production of all other feed grains is also down sharply from last year.

(Continued)

Cattle sold in the first half of 1962 may make more profit than cattle sold later. We are guessing that prices received will be higher in the first half than in the last half. Costs of gains also appear likely to be higher, as the effects of reduced production of feed grains are reflected in market prices.

For many years farmers have been willing to pay more for calves than for yearling cattle. One reason was that they usually sold the older, heavier cattle on low spring markets but finished the calves and sold them on the higher markets of the late summer and fall.

Recent years have brought a reversal of seasonal price patterns. The best prices have been received for cattle sold in the first half of the year. The calves have had to sell on the lower markets of the late summer and fall.

The point is that one of the reasons for paying more for calves than for heavier replacement cattle has disappeared.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

CORN YIELDS JUMP 11 PERCENT OVER 1960 LEVELS

URBANA, ILLINOIS
SEPT. 20, 1961

Late summer weather was favorable for crop production in almost all parts of the nation. Field crop yields per acre are at or near all-time record levels almost everywhere, except in the drouth area of the far northern Great Plains.

The national average yield of corn is officially estimated at 60.4 bushels an acre. This is 11 percent greater than the previous record set just last year. The average corn yield for Illinois is listed at 76.0 bushels an acre. This average is 12 percent over the record set a year ago.

Farmers pushed hard on three yield-increasing practices to get high yields this year. They grew corn on their better fields, they planted more corn per acre and they applied more fertilizer.

The Weather Man helped, too, of course. This is shown by the condition of pastures in the corn belt, which on September 1 was 16 percent better than the ten-year average for the date.

The exceptionally high yields of corn will aid government officials in their efforts to hold down corn prices in the 1961-62 marketing year. If the price of corn is kept too low, however, it will prevent the attainment of one of the goals of the feed-grain program, which was to raise livestock prices. Illinois farmers get about 2 1/2 times as much money from the sale of cattle and hogs as from the sale of corn.

The total production of the four feed grains--corn, oats, sorghum grain and barley--is estimated at 137 million tons, only 11 percent less than the record output in 1960.

SORGHUM GRAIN. The production of sorghum grain is estimated at 480 million bushels, 21 percent less than last year. Texas, Kansas and Nebraska are the principal producers of sorghum grain.

Acreage was cut nearly one-third, but the average yield is indicated at 44 bushels per acre, or 11 percent greater than the previous record set just last year. Acre yields of sorghum grain have doubled in the past five years.

SOYBEANS. Agricultural officials in Washington asked last spring for more soybeans. They are getting them! The 1961 soybean crop is now estimated at 720 million bushels. This is 29 percent more than last year and 24 percent more than the previous record crop produced in 1958.

Domestic use and exports have taken about 570 million bushels in each of the last five years. If the total disappearance (domestic use and exports) increases 10 percent in the coming year, we would still have nearly 100 million bushels for carry-over a year hence. It appears likely that the government will get these excess beans as the market price sags below the support level of $2.30 a bushel.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS SEPTEMBER 27, 1961

HOG PRODUCTION TO REMAIN PROFITABLE

The USDA makes a survey and report on hog production four times each year. These reports are released in March, June, September and December.

The September report indicates that market supplies of hogs will be moderate this fall. No big increase in production is yet in sight.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER MARKETS. The official report showed that farmers had 10 percent more pigs three to six months old on hand September 1 than they had a year before. Most of these pigs will be marketed in the October-December quarter.

While 10 percent is a sizable increase, remember that market supplies were comparatively small in this period last year. Prices of barrows and gilts at eight midwest terminal markets held very close to $17.30 a hundred pounds. Prices may average about $2.00 lower this fall.

JANUARY-MARCH MARKETS. Farmers had only 2 percent more pigs under three months old on September 1 than they had a year earlier. These pigs will make the pork supply in the January-March quarter. Prices seem likely to be about the same as a year before, when they averaged $17.66 at midwest terminals.

APRIL-JUNE MARKETS. The crystal ball begins to get cloudy at this distance. The reports turned in by farmers showed that they would have 5 percent more sows farrow in this present quarter than they had a year ago. The number of pigs saved per litter may be up 1 or 2 percent too. Thus the total number of pigs saved may be up 6 or 7 percent over a year ago. These pigs will be on the market in the April-June quarter next year. Prices may average $1 to $2 lower than the $16.67 average posted in the corresponding quarters of this year.

LAST HALF OF '62. The crystal ball becomes more cloudy at this long range. But some things can be seen.

The government pig crop report showed that farmers planned to have 4 percent more sows farrow in the December-February quarter than they had a year before. Ordinarily about 37 percent of the spring pig crop is farrowed in these winter months.

Total spring farrowings seem likely to be up only slightly from 1961. It appears that the hog-corn price ratio during the breeding months this fall may be around 14 (on the basis of local market prices). This would be about equal to the 10-year average for the fall months.

Some farmers will, of course, increase production. But many are already using their facilities at full capacity. Finally, some of the smaller producers, especially outside the main corn belt, will cut hog production because they put most or all of their corn land into the idle acres program.

SUMMARY. Farmers are increasing hog production only moderately. Prices seem likely to be good enough to make average profits for producers during the next 12 to 15 months.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS OCT. 4, 1961

BUSINESS RECOVERY IS SLOW

The recovery from the 1960-61 business recession began fast, but is slowing down. For example, the flow of personal income increased about 4 percent from February to July, but dipped 1/2 percent in August.

The latest report on employment, for August, showed over 71 million persons at work. This was about the same as a year before. Unemployment was listed at 4 1/2 million, or 3/4 million more than a year earlier. New jobs have not been forthcoming to match the additions to the labor force.

Housing starts, which increased in five of the first six months of this year, declined in July and August. The annual rate of starts was 1,317,000 in August compared with 1,335,000 the year before and over 1,400,000 two years before. Housing construction is one of the nation's biggest industries.

Steel production swelled from around 6 million tons a month at the first of the year to 9 million tons in May. Monthly output since May has been 8 million to 9 million tons.

Families are still cautious in spending their money. Installment debt is about the same as it was a year ago, while savings are greater. The slowness of personal and family buying to increase has been a major factor in holding back recovery.

Retail sales dipped to a recession low of $17.8 billion in January and February. They went up a bit to $18.1 billion in March, but have not increased since then. Retail sales, however, have lagged in other recoveries, particularly those of 1954 and 1958.

Consumers are better supplied with goods now than they were in the earlier years. They are less pressed to buy automobiles, furniture and appliances. Another point is that uncertainties about military service obligations prevent many families from making major purchases.

Trends in bank credit are good measures of the change in tides of business. Many bankers are disappointed in the slow demand from businesses for loans. Business firms are not borrowing as much

to finance expansion and improvements as had been expected. There is some thought that when and if consumers start on another spending spree, businessmen will borrow to increase their spending for new plants and equipment. But many businesses have just completed expansion programs and see no profit from increasing their outlays for capital items.

Business failures jumped in August to 74 per 10,000 enterprises compared with around 62 in earlier months of this year and late 1960. In 1959 and 1960 the monthly rate of failures was only about 50 per 10,000. The biggest increase in failures was among retail stores selling apparel, furniture, hardware and general merchandise.

Spending by state and city governments has continued to increase, but only at a normal rate. No big change in such spending is in sight. Spending by the federal government is increasing, but not so rapidly as in the recovery from the 1957-58 recession.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

POULTRY OUTLOOK

Prospects For Eggs, Turkeys And Broilers

URBANA, ILLINOIS OCTOBER 11, 1961

EGGS. Egg producers have had a profitable year. In the past 12 months, ending with September, prices received by farmers averaged about 5 cents a dozen higher than during the previous year.

The good prices made farmers optimistic, and they made plans to increase production. They bought 19 percent more egg-type chicks in the first four months of this year than one year before.

News of these big purchases of chicks pointed to excessive production of eggs in the year beginning with October. Farmers then cut their purchases of chicks in May and June. Total purchases since January 1 are only about 6 percent above the low level of 1960.

The large purchases of egg-type chicks back in March and April will show up in increased egg production in the next few months.

Prices received by Illinois farmers in this October-December quarter seem likely to average around 30 cents a dozen, or about 7 cents less than a year ago. Prices during the winter quarter, January-March, are expected to be close to 28 cents, or 6 cents below last winter. In the spring quarter, April through June, Illinois farmers may get prices for eggs averaging about 25 cents, 2 cents less than this year.

Farmers in the northeastern part of the state usually get 2 or 3 cents a dozen more than the state average, while those in the western counties get a couple of cents less than the average.

TURKEYS. For the first time on record, farmers are producing enough turkeys to provide two birds, or more, for every family. The 1961 turkey crop is estimated at 107 million birds, 26 percent more than last year.

The supply is greater than can be sold at prices that are acceptable to producers and processors. So they, and others, will store a substantial number of turkeys for sale after the holidays.

Prices received by farmers for turkeys may average around 20 cents a pound in the October-December quarter. This would be about 6 cents less than last year. Retail prices should be correspondingly lower than in 1960, making big bargains for consumers.

BROILERS. Prices of broilers have been at unprofitable levels for producers since late last May. Much of the loss has been absorbed by "integrators" rather than by the farmers who raised the chickens.

Placement of broiler-type chicks continued at well over record levels until very recently. This means that market supplies will be plentiful at least until Thanksgiving.

Market supplies of broilers for the coming winter may be cut back to or below year-before levels. Price recovery, however, is usually slow after a long period of low prices such as we are having this year. Some market specialists believe that prices to farmers will remain below year-before levels during the winter even if the market supply is cut as much as 5 to 7 percent under corresponding 1961 levels.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

SOYBEAN CROP NOW WORTH 1 1/2 BILLION DOLLARS

Ranks Fourth Among the Cash Crops

URBANA, ILLINOIS
OCT. 18, 1961

The soybean harvest is almost completed in Illinois, but has been a little later than normal in most other states. Acre yields were disappointing in some spots of east-central Illinois and other areas where late summer drought was serious.

The official crop estimate was trimmed slightly on October 10. The crop total was listed at 710 million bushels, or 1 percent less than the estimate made a month before. But the new figure is still big by any past standard. It is 27 percent more than last year and 22 percent more than the previous record crop harvested three years ago.

Compared with last year, the acreage being harvested this year is up 15 percent, and the per acre yield is up 7 percent. Those are national figures.

Illinois, with a yield of 29 bushels per acre, is in a four-way tie for top yield. Other states with 29-bushel averages are Iowa, Indiana and Texas.

Illinois farmers produced 160 million bushels of soybeans this year, or 22 1/2 percent of the nation's crop. With the price figured at $2.20 a bushel, the value of the Illinois crop is 350 million dollars.

On the same basis the national crop is worth about 1,500 million dollars--or 1 1/2 billion. Just 30 years ago there was practically no soybean industry in the United States. The soybean is surely the most important new crop to be developed in the United States in many years.

In 1960 soybeans ranked an easy fifth among the nation's cash crops. Only wheat, cotton, corn and tobacco brought more money to farm communities. Now soybeans have moved into fourth place, ahead of tobacco, as a money crop. And this has come about with relatively little help from the government in the form of price support.

There was practically no carryover of old soybeans, so the new crop is the total supply. It appears to be large enough to meet all needs for seed, crushing and exports--and still have at least 10 percent of the crop left over next fall.

The price support for last year's crop was $1.85 a bushel, but farmers sold their beans on the open market and received prices averaging about $2.20. The price support for the 1961 crop has been raised to $2.30 a bushel. Processors and exporters will have to pay near the support level to get beans from farmers.

Farmers appear to have stored more beans on farms this fall than ever before. This puts them in a good position to bargain with buyers.

If farmers put, say, 20 percent or more of their beans under price support, the market price would likely rise to several cents over the support level.

The take-over date for any soybeans placed under price support loans will be June 1, 1962. The selling price for any beans taken over by the CCC will be the county support rate plus 16.5 cents a bushel. Faced with this prospect, buyers seem likely to buy what they need at lower prices even if they have to pay more than the support level.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

CATTLE ON FEED UP 8 PERCENT

Market Prices May Improve

URBANA, ILLINOIS OCT. 25, 1961

Cattle feeders (and beef consumers) got some important news in October. It was the USDA quarterly report of cattle on feed. The news was about neutral. It was neither strongly bullish nor strongly bearish. The report covered 26 principal cattle-feeding states. It gave estimates of numbers, classes and weights of cattle on feed and a forecast of the number of fed cattle to be marketed in this fourth quarter of 1961.

According to the report, marketings of fed cattle in this last quarter of the year will be about 5 percent greater than they were a year before. This increase would not be excessive. It could be offset by the increase in consumer buying power this fall compared with a year ago.

But there are other price factors on the bearish side. One is that beef may get some 5 to 10 percent more competition from pork than it did last year. Another is that the supply of turkey is 20 to 25 percent larger than it was a year ago.

Everything considered, it appears unlikely that prices for fed cattle will be as high this fall as they were last fall. Last year prices of Choice steers at Chicago averaged about $25 in October, $26 in November and $27 in December.

A year ago the fat cattle market was in a four-month rising trend which carried prices for Choice steers from $24.80 in September to $27.42 in January. The rise of fat cattle prices last fall covered only four months--an unusually short period. The deteriorating business situation a year ago probably had some price-depressing influence on the fat cattle market. This year the price rise began from a monthly low of $22.38 in July.

If business continues to improve, we would expect prices of fat cattle to work upward for several months. Competition from pork, turkeys and broilers is expected to ease off considerably after the holiday season. It seems dangerous, however, to bet that prices for Choice steers will go as high as the $27.42 average posted last January.

But let us get back to the report of cattle on feed October 1. The total number in feedlots in the 26 states was estimated at 5,551,000 head. That is 8 percent more than a year ago. Most of this increase was in the corn belt, where numbers on feed were up 14 percent. By contrast, the number on feed in the western states was down 2 percent.

The number of heavy cattle, weighing over 1,100 pounds, was estimated at 354,000 head, 3 percent less than a year before. The number weighing 900 to 1,100 pounds was 1,285,000, up 5 percent from the previous year. The number of cattle in the 700- to 900-pound bracket was listed at 2,000,000 head, up 13 percent from last year. The number of light-weight cattle, weighing under 700 pounds, was estimated at 1,411,000, or 8 percent more than a year earlier.

The 10 leading states in cattle feeding, with the percentage fed in each state, were as follows: Iowa, 21 percent; California, 14 percent; Nebraska, 11 percent; Illinois, 8 percent; Colorado, 6 percent; Minnesota, 5 percent; Kansas and Arizona, 4 percent each; and South Dakota and Missouri, 3 percent each.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

PRICES OF FARMLAND CREEP UPWARD

URBANA, ILLINOIS NOV. 1, 1961

Prices of Illinois farmland have been creeping upward during the past 12 months. But in most areas of the state they have not regained the high levels attained two years ago.

According to a recent report by the United States Department of Agriculture, prices of farmland in Illinois dipped 4 1/2 percent from July 1959 to November 1960. They then went up 1 1/2 percent from last November to July. The rise has continued through the late summer and the early fall.

In some sections of the state, particularly around Chicago and other large cities, there was little or no decline in farmland prices in 1959-60. In other areas the decline was as much as 10 to 15 percent, or more.

Similar trends occurred in most other corn-belt states. That is, there were some price declines in 1959-60 and some recovery this past year.

Weather made some exceptions. Drouth in Minnesota and too much rain in Indiana and Ohio kept prices on the downgrade in those states. In Missouri a series of favorable crop years has kept prices climbing steadily.

Outside the corn belt there never was much break in prices of farmland. There has been an increase of 2 to 5 percent a year in most states in each of the past two years. A notable exception has been North Dakota and adjoining areas, where severe drouth depressed prices this year.

Are farmland prices too high? Returns on farmland are apparently not so high as those on corporate stocks or bonds. But this does not mean that prices of farmland are too high. Many factors other than cash returns are involved in land values.

The methods of calculating returns from farming are not so precise as those in industry. Many farms earn good profits even when average returns are comparatively low. Finally, many persons

seem to be quite willing to buy farmland at prices that produce lower returns than they could get from other investments.

Who's buying and selling farmland? Farmers who already own some land are the biggest buyers. They have been buying about half of all the land offered for sale. Nonfarmers buy about one-third, and tenants who own no land buy one-sixth.

In the corn belt, 44 percent of the sales are being made by active farmers, 17 percent for estates, 16 percent by retired farmers, 12 percent by absentee owners and 11 percent by local non-farmers.

Is the family farm losing out, as is so widely proclaimed? Apparently not. A recent USDA report says that "...the net result of land transfers during the last 20 years has been to raise the proportion of farm operators who own a part or all of the land they operate to the highest level since tenure statistics were first obtained in 1880. According to the 1959 census, 79 percent of all farm operators were either full or part owners."

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

HOG PRICE PROSPECTS CONTINUE FAVORABLE

URBANA, ILLINOIS NOV. 8, 1961

The hog market has held up remarkably well this fall. In fact, it has been unusually strong and stable for 20 months.

A principal reason was that the spring pig crops, and consequently market supplies during the fall, were not excessive. This is in sharp contrast with some previous years, when farmers bunched their hog production so that markets were overloaded with pork in the fall and early winter.

Some market forecasters have said that November and December would bring excessive market supplies of hogs and sharply lower prices. They based their guesses on the official reports of late spring farrowings.

The USDA pig crop report of last June showed that 2,794,000 sows farrowed in April and May. This was 9 percent more than a year before. On the other hand, sow farrowings in April and May were about 20 percent smaller than the average for 10 years, 1950-59.

Another fact--on September 1 the USDA estimated that the number of pigs 3 to 6 months old was 10 percent greater than it was a year before. A corresponding increase in slaughter was recorded in October. The increase in marketings came seven months after the reported increase in farrowings. This is about the normal birth-to-market period.

Weekly market receipts may reach their peak for this year around mid-November. This guess is based on the fact that 1961 spring sow farrowings apparently reached their peak in the first week of April. Prospective market supplies for the winter quarter (January-March) are about the same as the actual supply last winter.

Farmers' production plans in September pointed to a market supply of hogs next spring about 6 percent larger than in 1961. At the same time their intentions, as they reported them, pointed to about 5 percent more pigs for market next summer than were marketed this past summer.

These are small increases. They could be largely offset by reduced supplies of broilers and increased consumer buying power. Still, it seems to be dangerous to predict that prices for hogs will be as high during the first three quarters of 1962 as in the first three quarters of this year.

What about hog markets in the last quarter of 1962? We will have the first clues from farmers when the next pig crop report is issued just before Christmas.

Ordinarily, the favorable prices of the past 12 months, and especially those of this fall, would bring about substantial increases in production. But perhaps the increase will not be too big this time. For one thing, many farmers have reduced their production of corn and can get $1.20 a bushel for most of it from the government. Many hog producers already are producing about as many hogs as they can handle. Some have had serious disease problems. Finally, we remember that the two latest big increases in hog production, in 1955 and 1959, came only after prices had gone well up into the $20s for several months. So--perhaps the increase in hog production will not be excessive next year.

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ILLINOIS
FARMERS'
OUTLOOK
LETTER

URBANA,
ILLINOIS
NOV. 15,
1961

CORN PRICES MAY AVERAGE HIGHER IN YEAR AHEAD

Price prospects for corn are uncertain. But our guess is that the average price for the 1961 crop will be a few cents higher than for the 1960 crop.

Sales of surplus corn from CCC stocks will, of course, be a dominant force in the market. But there are other important factors: (1) The new crop is smaller than that of last year; (2) there is more livestock to feed; and (3) the price-support level has been raised.

The carryover of old corn on October 1 was estimated by the USDA at 2 billion bushels. (About 95 percent of this was either owned by the government or under price-support loans.)

The 1961 crop is estimated at about 3 1/2 billion bushels counting only corn used for grain. This crop is about 9 percent less than that of 1960.

This gives us a total supply, carryover plus new crop, of nearly 5 1/2 billion bushels, which is only 2 percent less than we had for this past year.

Farmers also produced less sorghum grain, oats and barley this year than they did in 1960.

On the demand side, we will have about 2 percent more livestock to feed. Industrial uses and exports may take about as much corn as in this past year.

In view of these facts, the amount of corn required for this year may be about the same as, or a little larger than, for this past year. If the total disappearance of corn is 1 percent more than last year, the carryover next fall would be around 1,850 million bushels. This would be the largest carryover on record, except that of this fall.

Of the 3 1/2 billion bushels of new corn, about 1 1/2 billion bushels is eligible for price support. This quantity is equal to the total amount that [illegible] moved off farms. It is nearly 2 1/2 times as much as has been put under price support in any previous year. But not all of this corn will be put under price support, since some of it will be fed on farms where produced, or sold for various reasons.

While farmers are placing their 1961 crop of corn under price support, the government (CCC) will be selling a similar amount of old grain. The CCC can sell enough corn (and sorghum grain) to raise the $768 million paid to farmers under the feed-grain program. A much smaller amount will be sold, or given away, for export.

Here's the picture: Farmers have a little less corn than will be used in this marketing year. But Uncle Sam will be selling corn, adding 20 to 30 percent to the available supply. Offsetting this, farmers will be putting a nearly equal amount of their corn under loan--in effect selling it to the government.

The amount that farmers put under loan will depend mainly upon the difference between the market price and the price-support level of $1.20 a bushel. Conversely, the amount of corn that farmers put under loan will strongly influence the market price. The balance point for market prices may be about 10 cents a bushel less than the support level.

We doubt that anyone, in government or out, knows how much corn the government will sell--or what price levels will be maintained. If decisions have been made, they are always subject to change, especially if farmers do not like the policies that are being followed.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS NOV. 22, 1961

WHY DON'T FARM PRICE SUPPORTS WORK BETTER?

We have had farm price support programs for more than 30 years. The results have generally been disappointing. Why?

There are many reasons. One of the most important is that many U. S. farm products are sold on an international market. And neither farmers nor Congress has much control over either the supply or the demand on this international market.

It is easy to see that price-making forces flow readily over state lines. Every farmer knows that when the price of corn goes up in Iowa it also goes up in Illinois, Indiana and the eastern dairy and poultry areas. Likewise, the price of wheat moves up and down at the same time in Kansas, Illinois and Ohio.

It is not so easy to see that the prices of U. S. farm products are influenced by production in Canada, Australia and Russia--and the demand in India, England and The Netherlands.

We sell a big share of most of our crops in foreign markets. We export 56 percent of our rice, 51 percent of our wheat and 49 percent of our cotton. We also export 29 percent of our tobacco and 29 percent of our barley. We sell in foreign countries 25 percent of our soybeans, 19 percent of our sorghum grains and 15 percent of our corn. (These percentages are based on the amount sold off farms as equal to 100 percent.) Altogether we exported about $4.9 billion worth of U. S. farm products in the year ended last June 30.

But foreign trade does not move on a one-way ocean. In the year ended June 30 we imported agricultural products worth $3.6 billion. About half of them competed directly with U. S. farm products. The biggest competition came from sugar, beef, pork, wool, hides and skins, nuts, copra, vegetable oils and tobacco.

But we are not the only frog. Other countries export more than five times as much as we do. And they import more than seven times as much.

The United States produces a relatively small part of the world total of most farm products. For example, we produce only about 15 percent of the world wheat crop, 30 percent of the world's cotton and 21 percent of the world's tobacco. We have about 10 percent of the world's cattle and perhaps 15 percent of the world's hogs. We have only 4 percent of the world's sheep and produce 6 percent of the world's wool. We produce about 27 percent of the world's red meats and about 33 percent of the milk produced in leading countries.

These figures indicate some of the international supply and demand forces that influence the prices of U. S. farm products.

The next logical question is: "Can we insulate ourselves from these international price-making forces?" Probably not. We have been reducing tariff barriers for 25 years. Both major political parties are pledged to the promotion of still greater freedom of international trade among free nations of the world. Our security and our prosperity depend upon it.

In the long run international economic conditions will have more influence on U. S. farm prices than will our various programs for price support.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

DID FARM INCOME REALLY GO UP IN 1961?

URBANA, ILLINOIS NOV. 29, 1961

Reports from Washington officials tell us that U. S. farm income for this year will total about 12.7 billion dollars, or 1 billion dollars more than in 1960. These reports do not mention that most of this increase is really borrowed from 1962. Here is the picture:

Normally, most of the income from a corn crop comes to the farmer in the year after he produces and harvests the crop. Sales of corn are spread over all the months from October through the following September. Most of the income from corn that farmers place under price support loans is obtained after January 1, and most of the income from corn that is fed to livestock is realized in the calendar year after the crop is harvested. Thus, no matter how the crop is handled, most of the income from corn production normally comes the year after the crop is grown and harvested.

Under the government's feed grain program, however, farmers gave up income that they would have received in 1962 in exchange for immediate income in 1961. A total of about 768 million dollars was distributed this year under the 1961 feed-grain program. This amount was paid to farmers as rental for acres left idle. Farmers have no crops from these acres to sell in the next year. They have given up 1962 income in order to get more money in 1961. This is essentially a form of borrowing from the future.

The feed-grain program included two crops--corn and sorghum grain. But wheat growers, too, are borrowing income from next year. Wheat growers who wish to receive price support for their 1962 crop must reduce their acreage by at least 10 percent. The acres not seeded to wheat must be kept idle. No crop can be harvested from them. Farmers will receive rental payments for these idle acres. A large part of these payments will be made before the end of the year.

They are being counted as farm income for 1961. The unused acres will produce no wheat for sale in 1962. Here again farmers are giving up next year's income in order to get immediate cash. They are transferring income from 1962 to accounts for 1961.

We do not have an estimate of the amount of farm income shifted from 1962 to 1961 as a result of the wheat program. Taken together, however, the wheat and feed-grain programs apparently have shifted close to 900 million dollars from next year to this. This shift, or borrowing from the future, is the primary reason that government statisticians can say that "farm income went up 1 billion dollars in 1961."

Farm income for next year may be not much different from 1961. The livestock situation is not expected to change much. Higher price supports for corn and wheat will tend to offset the smaller amounts available to be placed under price support or sold. And the feed-grain payments, again borrowing from the future, will be repeated.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS
DEC. 6
1961

SOYBEAN PRICES TO SWING AROUND THE SUPPORT LEVEL

Prices of soybeans probably will hold close to the price-support level for the next six months. This is normal behavior for prices of a crop where the supply is substantially larger than the amount that will be used at the support price.

The situation was quite different a year ago. Then the supply did not exceed prospective use and exports. The price-support level was below market value. The crop failure in China then could be reflected in rising prices in the United States.

For the 1960-61 marketing year we had 582 million bushels of soybeans. (The carry-over in 1960 was 23 million bushels, and the crop 559 million.) This year we have 716 million bushels. (The carry-over was an insignificant 6 million bushels, while the 1961 crop was 710 million.) These figures show that our supply of beans for this marketing year is 23 percent more than the amount we had last year.

The price-support level for this year is $2.30 a bushel, 45 cents higher than for the 1960 crop. But the price-support level last year was not much of a factor in the market. Farmers sold their 1960 crop of beans at prices averaging $2.21 a bushel, which is only 9 cents lower than the support price for the 1961 crop.

In most recent years China has exported around 55 million bushels of soybeans annually, but exports from the 1960 crop apparently were only about one-fourth to one-third of normal. China appears to have had poor crops again in 1961. Consequently exports of Chinese beans again are likely to be small.

The United States had no reserves of soybeans last year to make up for the reduced exports from China. In fact, we exported only about 130 million bushels, 11 million less than the year before. But the fact that foreign demand was strong forced United States processors to bid up the price in order to keep enough beans in this country to keep their mills running.

Domestic mills used 401 million bushels of soybeans in 1960-61. This was 8 million bushels more than one year before, but just the same as two years earlier. Also, 45 million bushels were used for seed and other farm purposes.

For this marketing year, which began October 1, domestic mills are expected to take around 425 million bushels. Exporters are figured to take 175 million or so. Subtract another 40 million for seed and other farm disappearance. Then we would still have about 75 million bushels of beans left over next October 1--that is, after allowing for increases of 6 percent for domestic crushings and 35 percent for export. If farmers do not put most of this 75 million bushels under price support, market prices are likely to sag below the support level.

Some of the 1961 crop has not been harvested--and will be lost in the fields. Of course, there are some losses every year, but they seem to be considerably larger than normal this year. But even with these losses, the market supply seems to be more than enough to meet prospective needs until the 1962 crop becomes available.

We may note, however, that the expected carry-over next fall is only about one-tenth of the 1961 crop. That is not a big reserve. On the other hand, all big surpluses of crops have been built up by adding small amounts over a period of several years.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

MARKETING ORDERS CAN HELP STABILIZE PRICES, BUT ARE NOT STRONG PRICE SUPPORTS

URBANA, ILLINOIS DEC. 13, 1961

Many farmers have asked us about marketing agreements and orders. They want to know how they operate and what the results are.

We can forget about marketing agreements. They have no teeth, and have little effect. Marketing orders are issued by the Secretary of Agriculture. They can be issued for products specified by Congress, provided that either two-thirds of the producers, or producers of two-thirds of the volume, approve the order in a referendum.

Our best-known marketing orders are for milk. Such orders are now in effect in most of the nation's larger fluid milk markets. These orders do not control production. In fact, the law expressly prohibits the control of milk production by marketing orders.

Milk marketing orders generally do not fix prices. They do set up formulas for establishing minimum prices that must be paid by handlers. The minimum prices are usually changed each month to reflect variations in supply and demand. Sometimes prices paid for milk by handlers are higher than the minimum prices set under the marketing orders.

Many farmers apparently believe that the price of milk is supported by market orders. The orders do tend to support prices in some areas. But the big price support operations are carried on by the government quite independently of the market orders--and, even more importantly, by consumers when they buy milk and other dairy products.

Uncle Sam, with his big checkbook, supports prices of milk by buying butter, cheese and non-fat dry milk. His purchases of these products in recent months represented about 6 percent of all milk produced by farmers. It is this buying program, rather than the market orders, that supports the price of milk. But we should not overlook the fact that the U. S. consumer provides the fundamental support for milk prices by buying 94 percent of the total output.

Marketing orders have been applied to numerous fruits and vegetables, especially those produced in the Pacific Coast States. These orders generally do not regulate production. Farmers can plant as many acres or trees as they want. The orders do regulate marketing--usually by prohibiting the marketing of low-quality produce, or diverting a part of it to secondary uses. For example, the amount of fruit that could be sold fresh can be restricted by diverting some proportion to processing plants. The theory is that returns from the sales of fresh fruit are increased more than enough to offset any losses in the amounts that are processed.

Some marketing orders provide that part of the returns to farmers can be taken for research and promotion. In all cases there is a check-off to pay expenses of officials and other employees that are needed to enforce the regulations that are issued under the marketing order.

Some marketing orders have been dropped, probably because producers were disappointed with their results. But the increasing use of marketing orders indicates that many producers think they are beneficial, though they do not solve farmers' basic income problems.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

HAS DENMARK SAVED OR DESTROYED THE FAMILY FARM?

URBANA, ILLINOIS DEC. 20, 1961

We hear a lot about how European countries have solved their farm problems by government planning and controls. Denmark is a frequent example. How has Denmark solved her farm problem?

This little nation, one-third the size of Illinois, has more farms today than it had 50 years ago. About 95 percent of the farmers own their farms.

Denmark is pictured as a land of clean, white farmhouses; of green fields; of pretty milkmaids; of cows, pigs and poultry; and of butter, bacon, ham and eggs.

We are told that it is a land where "all the people enjoy prosperity and a fairly high standard of living. The results of the Danish economic program have been a lesson to the whole world."

They have, indeed!

The lesson was studied for more than a year by Mr. Fred L. Mann, a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law, who is now a member of the staff of the University of Missouri. Here are some of his findings and conclusions:

For more than a century Denmark has had a policy to make farming a way of life, to maintain or increase the number of farms and to have practically all the farmers own their own farms.

In Denmark the law requires that each farm in existence in 1925 must be maintained as an independent operating unit. It cannot be combined with another farm. It cannot be operated by any person operating another farm.

A house and farm buildings must be maintained on every farm. The operator of the farm must live on it, whether he be owner, tenant or hired manager.

One family cannot acquire more than two farms. If a family inherits a third farm, one-fifth of it must be turned over to the government.

Largely as a result of these laws the average size of farm in Denmark has not increased for half a century. In fact, the average size of farm has decreased because of the government "take" on inherited farms.

In 1957, 47 percent of the farms were smaller than 25 acres. The average farm family income on these farms was $379. This was the amount that was available to the family for consumption and capital accumulation.

Another 41 percent of the Danish farms ranged from 25 to 75 acres. Within this size group the families on 25- to 50-acre farms had incomes averaging $487. Families on the 50- to 75-acre farms had incomes averaging $689.

Ten percent of the Danish farms ranged from 75 to 150 acres. Only 2 percent were larger than 150 acres, and less than four-tenths of 1 percent were larger than 300 acres.

Farm families with 75 to 125 acres had incomes averaging $745. (At the same time wages paid to good hired men averaged $779--plus room and board.)

The figures above account for about 97 percent of all farm families in Denmark. They do not present a picture of prosperity, even by Danish standards.

If there is a lesson in the Danish experience, it is that government regulations that hold farmers to patterns of a historical base period tend to perpetuate farm poverty.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 15 SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM January 3, 1961

H. W. Hannah and N. G. P. Krausz

The school lunch program will not solve our surplus food problem, nor was it basically meant to do so. The purpose outlined by Congress in 1946 was "to safeguard the health and well being of the nation's children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities and other food." As can be seen from this language, Congress did have the food surplus in mind, however.

Payments of federal funds to states for lunches are made on a matching-formula basis. States with higher than average per capita income must put up three dollars for each dollar of federal contribution. However, the three dollars of state funds includes money spent on the program, such as supplies, facilities, equipment, etc. If a particular school qualifies for the program, it is reimbursed for the cost of food consumed.

School lunch funds are allocated to states on the basis of (1) number of school children in the state between the ages of 5 and 17 years and (2) need for assistance as shown by per capita income compared with the national per capita income. Both public and nonprofit private schools are included.

There are several related laws that give authority to supply commodities and funds to the school lunch program. One is to prevent waste of perishable foods acquired by the CCC. There is a requirement that the Secretary of Agriculture obtain assurance that schools will not diminish their normal expenditures for food by reason of such donation. Another law allows the use of 30 percent of custom receipts to encourage exportation and domestic consumption of agricultural commodities. A considerable amount of food is purchased for school lunches under this program.

Still another law appropriates funds for milk in schools. The last extension of this law, in [illegible], authorized the CCC to expend $75,000,000 a year (to which a deficiency appropriation of $[illegible] was added for the school year 1959-60) to increase consumption of fluid milk in (1) nonprofit elementary and high schools and (2) nonprofit nursery schools, child-care centers and other nonprofit institutions caring for and training children.

Lunches must meet minimum nutritional requirements set by the Secretary of Agriculture. Meals can be served free or at a reduced cost. The whole operation must be on a nonprofit basis.

The total amount of federal funds distributed under the school lunch program to all schools in [illegible] was about $[illegible]. For Illinois schools the total was $9,541,942.

Donated commodities are classified as either in surplus or not in surplus. The latter are acquired by direct purchase and include such items as peaches, tomatoes, green beans, frozen ground beef and turkey. Commodities in surplus include, among others, dried milk, rice, processed cheese, peanut butter, dried eggs and butter. Commodities donated in 1959-60 were valued at about $11,000,000.

This program is a substantial one in which 30 to 35 percent of the schools in Illinois are participating. It appears to be meeting the objectives as defined by Congress and presumably will continue, and probably expand, at least as long as there are surplus agricultural commodities.

H:K:je
1/4/61



CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 17 INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT January 1[illegible], 1961

H. W. Hannah and N. G. P. Krausz

Once again the International Wheat Agreement has been extended--for a three-year period running to July 31, 1962. Only one senator voted against this 1959 extension: the vote was 92 to 1.

Some 30 wheat-importing countries have agreed to buy on the average of 70 percent of their commercial wheat imports from nine exporting countries. Major importers are the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Brazil, India, Venezuela, Poland and Pakistan. The exporting countries include the United States, Canada, France, Australia, Uruguay, Italy, Mexico, Spain and Sweden.

For the years 1954-1958, about 600 million bushels of wheat were sold annually under this agreement. On the basis of this five-year period, the United States will export slightly over 150 million bushels a year for the extended three-year period.

Prices are set within a range, which is $1.50 to $1.[illegible] a bushel, in terms of basic grade, No. 1 Manitoba Northern, at a basic point at the head of the Great Lakes in Canada. A recent Canadian quotation (converted to U. S. funds) was $1.[illegible]. This is 20 cents below the maximum in the agreement.

The exporting country has an obligation to deliver a specified quantity at the maximum price. Importing countries are obligated to purchase a certain quantity at the minimum price. Negotiated quantities are sold at in-between prices.

An International Wheat Council composed of a voting member from each of the exporting and importing countries in the agreement administers the agreement.

keeping account of imports and exports. The Council has headquarters at London, England. Within the United States, however, the President takes action through the CCC to make wheat available under the agreement. The program is coordinated with other CCC programs, and funds are used to pay subsidies to wheat exporters. The exporter buys at market price in the United States and sells at the world price. The CCC then pays the exporter a subsidy in negotiable certificates which are redeemable in wheat from CCC stocks. This wheat in turn must be used for further exports under the program. Export subsidy payments average 55 to 60 cents a bushel.

Obviously the program is meant to provide markets for wheat at reasonably stable prices, with reduced influence from surplus or scarce supplies in particular countries. That is, an assured market is provided for exporting countries at a set minimum price, and an assured supply to importing countries at a set maximum price.

Since a large part of our wheat crop is placed under the price-support program and stored, the wheat agreement is helpful in at least avoiding the storage cost. But either way it costs the government--for price support or for export subsidy.

H:K:we
1/16/61

CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 18 January 31, 1961

MINIMUM WAGES, MAXIMUM HOURS AND AGRICULTURAL LABOR

H. W. Hannah and N. G. P. Krausz

The Fair Labor Standards Act of June 25, 1938, as amended, establishing maximum hours of work and minimum wages for employees in industry, exempts employees in agriculture from these two provisions. This act defines agriculture as follows: "Agriculture includes farming in all its branches and among other things includes the cultivation and tillage of the soil, dairying, the production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural or horticultural commodities (including commodities defined as agricultural commodities in the Agricultural Marketing Act of June 15, 1929, as amended), the raising of livestock, bees, fur-bearing animals, or poultry, and any practices (including any forestry or lumbering operations) performed by a farmer or on a farm as an incident to or in conjunction with such farming operations, including preparation for market, delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transportation to market."

In addition, the Act exempts certain seasonal occupations from maximum-hours provisions, and it exempts from both wage and hour provisions labor performed in processing certain agricultural products when the work is done in the area of production.

For a number of reasons these exemptions do not raise any serious questions about what one might call "customary" labor in a tilled patch or a farm. But as one moves away from the farm itself and into agriculture, industry, questions do arise.

Conceding that the purpose of the Act is to better conditions for laboring people, what grounds may honestly be urged for excepting an employee

operation? To what extent should the peculiar nature or demands of the employer's business or the difficulty of administering the law excuse him from the provisions of the Act with respect to the people employed by him? Since the line of demarcation between agriculture and industry is indistinct, should not primary consideration be given to actual benefits that may accrue to labor by excluding or including a particular kind of labor, rather than to an attempted and perhaps impossible definition of a particular kind of business?

A review of court decisions defining agriculture reveals no substantial guides. In interpreting the agricultural exemption, the courts have at times been impressed by the nature of the business in which the laborer was engaged, and at other times by the kind of work the particular laborer was performing. Thus the possibility exists that one may be an agricultural laborer for a nonagricultural business or a nonagricultural laborer for an agricultural business. The range of the court's discretion is extremely wide when it states that "this section exempting agricultural workers covers large operators as well as small ones and includes 'extraordinary methods' of agriculture as well as the more conventional ones!"

It is logical to assume that, since certain principles had to be enunciated in order that the exclusion of agriculture could be justified, these same principles might be used to determine whether a laborer should be excluded from the Act. If this is sound, all attempts to define agriculture should be abandoned as being of secondary importance to establishing the principles actually involved.

The Act states that "...Congress hereby finds that the existence in industries engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, of labor conditions detrimental to the maintenance of the minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency, and general well being of workers..." causes certain undesirable conditions. "...It is hereby declared to be the policy of this Act through the exercise by Congress of its powers to regulate commerce among the several states, to correct and as rapidly as possible to eliminate the conditions above referred to in such industries, without substantially curtailing employment or earning power."

The first condition is that the industry must be engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce. Initially it is a matter of administrative determination whether or not a particular industry is thus engaged.

Congress further assumes that it would be inequitable to apply the rule to every employment and has accordingly made certain exemptions in the law. These exemptions are provided for, not by the enumeration of principles or guides which the administrator could use to rule on questionable matters, but by the naming of specific occupations. The administrator must then determine the more superficial question of whether a particular calling is fishing, farming, or what not, when the determination of such question does not settle the real issue of whether the laborers involved should be included in the law.

It may be argued that practical necessity demands broad industrial distinctions. It may also be argued, however, that practical justice demands definitions which will not deny the benefits of the law to those who need such benefits.

H:K:he
1/30/41

CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 19 THE WABASH VALLEY COMPACT February 15, 1961

H. W. Hannah and N. G. P. Krausz

In 1959 Congress gave its consent to, and the states of Illinois and Indiana officially joined hands in, a program to develop the Wabash Valley--an area of some 33,000 square miles in the watershed of the Wabash River comprising about two-thirds of the state of Indiana and one-seventh of the state of Illinois. The terms of this cooperative venture are spelled out in a compact adopted by the legislatures of both states.

After a statement of legislative finding to the effect that the Valley has suffered from a lack of comprehensive planning to develop all its resources, an Interstate Commission is established to further regional planning and development in the Valley. The Commission is composed of fourteen members, seven from each state. Also, Congress provided that the President shall appoint a federal representative to serve without vote. For the first biennium of its operation, each state appropriated $20,000. It should be stated that several years prior to the establishment of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission, interested citizens organized the Wabash Valley Association, a voluntary and very effective continuing citizen agency devoted to the improvement and better use of the resources of the Valley. This organization sponsored the legislation leading to establishment of the compact.

The Commission is not an "action" agency which will itself undertake development projects. The law (in summary) gives it power to:

1. Promote the balanced development of the Valley by recommending the coordination of studies, recommending standards as guides

for local and state zoning, publishing and disseminating information, encouraging tourist traffic, and cooperating in preparing a master plan for a balanced development.

2. Recommend integrated plans and programs having to do with land classification and use, flood protection, water supplies, resource management, and recreational resource development.
3. Secure necessary research and development activities by correlating activities, engaging in or contracting for original research and investigation, and publishing and disseminating reports.
4. Make recommendations for action to state and federal governments and government agencies.

The work of the Commission and the development of the Valley have great meaning to farmers and their families, because the Valley is primarily agricultural. Hence, all agencies, both public and private, with responsibilities in the agricultural area will have an interest in the new Commission and will wish to seek ways of cooperating with it. Headquarters are in Terre Haute, Indiana. Its executive director is Dr. Bruce K. Barton, formerly professor of geography at Eastern Illinois State University.

HWH:be
2/13/61



CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 20 FEDERAL STAMP TAX ON REAL ESTATE March 1, 1951

H. W. Hannah and N. G. P. Krausz

The federal documentary stamp tax is imposed on the transfer of real property by deed or other written instrument. The tax is paid by purchasing stamps at United States post offices and placing the stamps on the document. When transferring real estate, landowners often buy more stamps than the law requires, and sometimes fail to apply stamps to deeds when they should do so.

Taxable transactions include sales for a consideration, exchange of real estate, a conveyance in consideration of life maintenance, conveyances in lieu of foreclosure, master's or sheriff's deeds, conveyance in exchange for stock in a corporation, timber and mining deeds, conveyance by a partner to a partnership and conveyance to a government unit.

The law exempts certain documents from the stamp tax. Exemptions include mortgages and leases of real estate, transfers of real estate by an executor according to a will, gifts of real estate, conveyance to a "straw man," quit claim deeds to correct title, options and contracts for real estate, partition deeds, tenancy deeds and deeds to a trustee for the benefit of creditors.

To determine value when real estate is sold, the price paid by the purchaser--reduced by any mortgage on the property existing before the sale was and discharged by the sale--is used. That is, the tax applies only on the net consideration, and the amount of all liens and encumbrances on the realty existing before a sale, and not removed by the sale, are deducted to arrive at the net value. If the amount being paid cannot be definitely determined, the market value of the interest transferred is used. Documentary transfers involving property whose net value is less than $100 are not subject to the tax.

The person using or affixing documentary tax stamps is required to cancel and deface the stamps to render them incapable of being reused. This is done by marking each stamp with the initials of the person and the day, month and year of the transaction. Stamps with a value of 50 cents or more must be canceled by perforation, or by three lengthwise incisions with a sharp instrument, after being placed on the document. However, the stamp must not be defaced to the extent that it is unreadable.

The tax rate on transfers of real property is 55 cents for the first $500 of value and 55 cents for each additional $500 or fractional part.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 21

POULTRY PRODUCTS INSPECTION

H. W. Hannah and N. G. P. Krausz

Before January 1, 1959, federal inspection of poultry and poultry products was voluntary. But a law enacted by the 85th Congress provides for compulsory inspection, since that date, of poultry and poultry products that move in interstate commerce. The United States Department of Agriculture carries out the inspection to prevent unwholesome or adulterated poultry products from being offered for sale to the public.

Basically the law provides for inspection of birds after slaughter and use of prescribed methods of processing, labeling and packaging. It empowers the Secretary of Agriculture to prescribe the type of premises, facilities and equipment that will be required under the sanitary practices sections.

Because of constitutional limitations, the law applies only to poultry and poultry products shipped in foreign or interstate commerce and to those shipped into designated major consuming areas. The term poultry includes chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese and guineas. The law prohibits (a) shipment of poultry and poultry products unless they have been inspected and marked, (b) slaughtering as human food of any poultry products that have not passed inspection, (c) improper use of inspection marks and certificates, (d) misbranding or adulteration of poultry and poultry products, (e) removal or destruction without authority of any mark or label that has been affixed to any poultry or poultry products while they are being held for sale after shipment in commerce, unless such mark or label is removed, (f) interstate commerce in poultry and poultry products except as authorized by this act and (g) unauthorized use or exposure, by any person, of trade secrets learned while working under the authority of this act. In addition, slaughterers

and processors covered by this law are required to allow representatives of the Secretary of Agriculture access to their premises at reasonable times and access to the records that they are required to keep.

Plants shipping poultry and poultry products exclusively within a state are not eligible for inspection service, even on a voluntary basis, unless they ship to a designated major consuming area or unless payment is made for the inspection. Major consuming areas must be applied for by a state official and are designated by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with his findings at public hearings conducted to determine whether the inclusion of certain areas will tend to further the purposes of the inspection law.

The law does not apply to live poultry or eggs. It specifically exempts producers who slaughter their own poultry or those producers who process their own poultry and sell it directly to household consumers, restaurants, hotels and others who serve it to consumers only. Also exempt are retailers who merely cut up previously dressed poultry for sale to consumers. However, there are general sanitary requirements to be met, and stores must sell poultry in the same store in which it is cut.

A new Illinois poultry inspection act (effective July 1, 1960) provides for licensing and inspection of meat and poultry slaughterers and processors not covered by the federal inspection program. Basically, the state law provides for about the same requirements for plants operating exclusively in Illinois as the federal act does for interstate operators. It is interesting to note that under the Illinois law rabbits are included in the term poultry. Producers who slaughter their own animals are exempt under the Illinois act only to the extent that they are not actively engaged in selling meat for human consumption. The exemption for retailers is the same as under the federal act. The Illinois law provides for reinspection of meat and poultry products while in the channels of trade if the State Department of Agriculture deems it necessary. If any municipal government has an inspection program equivalent to the state program, such inspection may be substituted for state inspection.

The operation of these two acts should cover nearly all the poultry and poultry products shipped from or consumed in Illinois. Under the federal law, about 25 poultry slaughtering plants are subject to continuous inspection, and about 15 canning plants have voluntarily chosen to be inspected. The state inspection program is new and covers about 75 processors as of this date.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 22

AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME

April 1, 1961

H. W. Hannah and D. G. L. Krause

In August 1960 Congress passed an act creating a corporation with the name "Agricultural Hall of Fame." The act states that the purposes of the corporation shall be:

1. To honor farmers, farm women, farm leaders, teachers, scientists, inventors, governmental leaders and other individuals who have helped make this nation great by their outstanding contributions to the establishment, development, advancement or improvement of agriculture in the United States of America.

2. To perpetuate the memory of such persons and record their contributions and achievements by the erection and maintenance of such buildings, monuments and edifices as may be deemed appropriate as a lasting memorial.

3. To foster, promote and encourage a greater sense of appreciation of the dignity and importance of agriculture, particularly as carried on through owner-operated farms, and the part it has played in developing those social, economic and spiritual values which are essential in maintaining the free and democratic institutions of our republic.

4. To establish and maintain a library and museum for the collection and preservation for posterity of agricultural tools, implements, machines, vehicles, pictures, paintings, books, papers, documents, data, relics, mementos, artifacts and other items and things relating to agriculture.

The corporation is authorized to cooperate with other organizations, to engage in activities related to its objectives and to receive contributions and maintain a fund for "charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes."

The proposed site for the corporation's museum is Kansas City, Kansas. Some land has been donated, and plans are being developed to establish the museum. The federal act creating the corporation did not make an appropriation. President of the corporation is Mr. Howard A. Cowden, and its current business address is 916 Walnut Street Building, Kansas City, Missouri.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 23

THE USDA AND ANIMAL DISEASE

April 15, 1961

H. W. Hannah and N. G. P. Krausz

Among the many duties of the United States Department of Agriculture is that of "investigating and reporting upon the condition of the domestic animals and live poultry of the United States, their protection and use." Also the Department is to inquire into and "...report the causes of contagious, infectious, and communicable diseases among domestic animals and live poultry, and the means of prevention and cure of the same, and to collect such information on these subjects as shall be valuable...."

The original intent of the law seems to have been that the Department would be mainly a fact-finding and information-disseminating agency. But it long ago lost this neutral color. It is now the principal agency for the administration of the many federal laws on animal disease. Agencies that are concerned are the meat inspection, animal disease eradication, and animal inspection and quarantine divisions of the regulatory programs branch of the Agricultural Research Service.

The Department has an extensive field organization consisting of stations, some of which handle the work of several divisions, and substations. It also is charged with the responsibility of administering international agreements and compacts respecting animal diseases--the Mexican—United States Commission for the Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, for example.

To insure that essential work would not be unduly hampered by subverting livestock owners, a section in the law provides that anyone who hinders or opposes an employee of the Department, while engaged in his work, is guilty of a criminal

offense and that threatening such employees with a weapon is punishable by fine or imprisonment or both.

What gives Congress this authority in the animal disease field? The United States Supreme Court has stated that congressional regulation of interstate commerce is paramount throughout the Union, so that when the entire subject or the interstate shipment of livestock is taken under direct national supervision, all local and state regulations of such matters will cease to have any force.

Since a high percentage of the nation's animals do move in interstate commerce, or "affect" interstate commerce, as that term is defined by the courts, the authority of the federal government is considerable.

Included among the Department's activities are cooperative programs for bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis eradication, meat inspection, milk inspection, regulation of the disease and health aspects of imports and exports of animals and animal products, and supervision of the manufacture of viruses, serums, toxins, and antitoxins to insure standards.

In carrying out these laws, the Department may test, inspect, quarantine, prevent movement, require dipping or other treatment and in general take any steps required to control and prevent the spread of animal disease.

As the livestock and meat industry expands and becomes even more "commercialized," the federal government can be expected to assume a still larger role in animal disease control and prevention.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 24 THE PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT May 1, 1961

H. W. Hannah and N. G. P. Krause

In 1921 Congress passed the Packers and Stockyards Act to curb discriminatory business practices, apportionment of supply, manipulation of prices and collusive marketing agreements carried on by meat packers. It also imposed restrictions on stockyards, marketing agencies and livestock dealers to prevent them from imposing discriminatory rates and making unreasonable charges for services. Marketing agencies and dealers could be forced to post bond to insure the performance of their obligations to those with whom they dealt.

Because of constitutional limitations, this act applied only to operations that were in interstate commerce and therefore included only stockyards of over 20,000 square feet. This area requirement brought the "big" packers under the law. The Secretary of Agriculture was charged with enforcement.

This legislation seemed to be adequate in the 1920s and 1930s. Most livestock was then marketed through terminal stockyards and shipped by rail. There was little country buying. Too, packers were generally less diversified in their operations than they are now. Under these conditions the Secretary of Agriculture was an appropriate authority to enforce all provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

Changes in the marketing of livestock and the operations of packers after World War II outmoded the act. Country buying became a primary means of getting livestock in the stream of interstate commerce. By 1957 there were 1,400 federally country livestock markets operating in interstate commerce, but not covered by the

act because they were less than 20,000 square feet in size. Although these markets were technically under the jurisdiction of the Federal Trade Commission, there was no effort to regulate them. Packers became involved in such a diversity of operations that the Secretary of Agriculture did not seem to be a proper authority to supervise all of their activities. To bring the Packers and Stockyards Act in line with current practices, it was amended in 1958.

Under the amended act, all stockyards engaged in placing livestock in interstate commerce are subject to regulation, regardless of size. Marketing agencies and livestock dealers are included whether they do their business at a stockyard or in the country.

To divide authority and promote efficiency, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Federal Trade Commission each have an area of primary jurisdiction in enforcing the act's provisions. Basically it is this: The Secretary of Agriculture enforces the act as to stockyards, marketing agencies and livestock dealers. He is also responsible for enforcement as to packer operations in livestock, meat, meat food products, livestock products in unmanufactured form, and poultry and poultry products other than at retail. The Federal Trade Commission has primary jurisdiction over the retailing of these products, and all other packer operations.

As can be seen, the amendments are designed to gear up an old law to a new system. Neither the old act nor the amended act applies to farmers selling their own livestock, or to buying livestock for use on their farms or ranches.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 25 FARMER COOPERATIVES AND ANTI-TRUST LAWS May 15, 1947

H. W. Hannah and W. G. F. Hoover

In the late 1890s and early 1900's farmer cooperatives gained widespread popularity as a means of improving the farmer's competitive position. But the 1890 Sherman Anti-Trust Law declared it illegal for persons to make contracts, to combine or to conspire in restraint of trade in interstate commerce, and a serious question presented itself with relation to the Sherman Act. Were farmers who joined together in cooperative organizations violating this anti-trust law? There was no reference to farm cooperatives in the act, and their organization stood on uncertain ground.

In 1914 the Clayton Act was passed. Part of that act sought to clear up the cooperative question. It provided that agricultural cooperatives were not prohibited by the anti-trust laws as long as they had no capital stock, were operated on a nonprofit basis and lawfully attempted to carry out the objects for which they were formed. This answer was not completely satisfactory because many cooperatives were organized with capital stock.

Finally, in 1922, the Capper-Volstead Act was signed into law by President Harding. This law specifically exempted agricultural cooperatives with capital stock on two conditions. First, no member of the cooperative could have more than one vote regardless of the number of shares he held or the investment; the cooperative could not pay dividends exceeding 8 percent on the capital; and, second, these associations could not deal in products of nonmembers to an amount greater in value than those handled for members.

For many years after the Capper-Volstead Act, cooperatives took the position that they were entirely immune to anti-trust law prosecution. However, in recent years the courts have said that agricultural cooperatives can be prosecuted under the anti-trust laws for such acts as contracting, combining or conspiring with another in restraint of trade, acquiring the assets of a competitor with an eye to creating a monopoly or discriminating against independent producers, and selling to others or purchasing from others at prices that are discriminatory to other parties.

The United States Supreme Court made itself quite clear on the cooperatives' position in a 1960 decision. In this case it was charged that a milk producers' cooperative had monopolized interstate commerce in milk in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. It was further charged that the cooperative had combined and conspired with others to foreclose competition in that market. In addition, it was alleged that the cooperative had acquired the assets of the largest milk dealer in the area, the effect of which might be to lessen competition and create a monopoly. The cooperative defended primarily on the basis that, since it was an association of dairy farmers, it was completely immunized from prosecution under the anti-trust laws. In finding against the cooperative, the court announced that the purpose of the Capper-Volstead Act was to allow farmers to organize together as a business corporation. It emphasized, however, that the act did not show a congressional intent to give farmer cooperatives unrestricted power to restrain trade or create monopolies.

The Supreme Court view is also expressed in a 1960 United States Circuit Court of Appeals case involving Sunkist Growers, Inc. (a cooperative). Here an orange juice processor sued under the anti-trust provision for damages sustained by Sunkist's price discrimination against him. A verdict of $1,500,000 was returned against Sunkist (treble damages). The court, citing the above-mentioned Supreme Court case, upheld the liability of Sunkist but sent the case back for reassessment of damages.

These cases stand as a warning to cooperatives to keep their business activities within the limits of anti-trust legislation. There seems to be no question but that farmers may unite to handle and market agricultural production without violating anti-trust laws. It appears equally clear that growth and expansion are permitted even to the point of controlling all of a particular product in a given market area. Bigness is not illegal.

The important point is how a business gains and uses its power and strength. Unfair competition through price fixing and price discrimination, combinations and conspiracies to restrain trade all are as unlawful for co-ops as for other businesses, and the anti-trust laws will be invoked.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 26 NEW FARM LAWS BY CONGRESS October 1, 1964

N. G. P. Krausz

A number of new laws were passed by this Congress that affect farmers. Enough has been written about the feed grain and wheat programs, but other laws have had less attention. Here is a digest of the others:

1. Emergency Feed for Livestock. The Secretary of Agriculture is permitted to sell feed owned by CCC to preserve foundation herds in disaster areas.

2. Harvesting Hay on Conservation Reserve. This law permits the harvesting of hay on conservation reserve land when the governor of the State certifies the area as a disaster area.

3. Grapes and Plums for Export. Minimum standards of quality can now be set by the Secretary of Agriculture for grapes and plums going into export.

4. Registration of Nematocides, Plant Regulators, Defoliants, and Desicants. Certain of these chemicals can be exempted from registration until the Food and Drug Administration has issued regulations on their use--if such action is in the public interest.

5. Release of Allotments. This law permits a farmer whose land has been taken by eminent domain to release his allotment to the county committee for reapportionment to other farms in the same county. He can do this on an annual basis during the three years he has in which to purchase other land and reclaim the allotment.

6. Agricultural Surplus Disposal. $1.7 billion is authorized for the year 1964, and $4.5 billion is authorized for the next three years. This law provides for the sale of our surplus for foreign currencies or, in some cases, for outright gift to foreign countries.

7. Wildlife Preservation. This is a new law to authorize states to use surplus grain from CCC to prevent starvation of wildlife because of adverse weather. States are required only to pay the expense of packaging and transportation.

8. Milk and Dairy Products. The school milk program is extended to July 1, 1966, and surplus dairy products are made available to veterans' hospitals and armed forces free of charge until 1965.

9. Agricultural Credit. Several changes were made in this area:

a. An FHA loan may now raise the indebtedness against a farm to $60,000, or the normal value of the farm, or the loan amount certified by the county committee. Formerly the loan limit was the average value of an efficient family-type farm in the locality or county.

b. A farm owner is one who has the right to encumber his interest in the property. Past law required a marketable title in fee simple.

c. On operating loans to farmers on less than family-sized farms, only a reasonable amount of farm training or experience is now required. Previously the law required that the farmer historically reside on a farm.

d. Operating loans are increased from a maximum of $20,000 to $35,000, but not more than 25 percent of loan funds can be used for loans over $15,000 (increased from $10,000). This is a substantial increase in money available for larger loans.

e. Operating loans can be renewed for five years (was three years).

10. Marketing Orders. Several changes were also made in this law:

a. The penalty is reduced for exceeding allotments under a marketing order to the value of the excess commodity, but the violation need not be willful, as under previous law.

b. Authority is added to issue marketing orders for cherries and cranberries for canning and freezing, lambs, turkeys, apples produced in Michigan, New York and New England, and all other commodities not now covered--except cotton, peanuts, rice, wheat, corn, grain sorghums, cottonseed, flaxseed, oats, barley, rye, sugarcane, sugarbeets, wool, mohair, livestock (other than lambs), poultry (other than turkeys), eggs, and apples (other than those mentioned above or apples already covered), tobacco and soybeans.

c. Provides for marketing research and development programs under milk marketing orders and advertising programs for all commodities.

11. Hog Cholera Eradication. A stronger eradication program with federal participation is permitted under this new law. The Secretary of Agriculture is given authority to prohibit or restrict interstate movement of hogs to the extent he determines necessary to effectuate the program. An advisory committee is to be appointed to assist the Secretary in developing plans and procedures for carrying out this program.

12. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention. An amendment adds more sponsors for improvement works under the watershed protection and flood prevention law. Added are irrigation or reservoir company, water users' association or similar organization having such authority and not operated for profit.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 27

THE NEW SOCIAL SECURITY

October 15, 1961

N. G. P. Krausz

Last June 30 Congress made important changes in the Social Security Act effective August 1. An important change in the act is the increase in the minimum benefit from $33 to $40 a month. Also, the eligibility age for men has been lowered to 62 years, with a reduction in the monthly benefit payable during the longer retirement period. It is estimated that this reduction is the male eligibility age will confer benefits on some 560,000 people during the first twelve months after the amendment becomes effective.

The new amendment gives fully insured status to individuals who have at least one quarter of coverage for each year after 1950 or, for the younger person, one quarter for each year after the year in which he reached 21 years. Previously one quarter of coverage out of each three quarters was required in order to be fully insured. Survivors' benefits for widows, widowers and some parents are increased from 75 percent to 82 1/2 percent of the deceased worker's primary benefit.

In addition, permitted earnings of a retired worker (under age 72) have been liberalized. Under previous law, for earnings over $1,200 and up to $1,500, he would lose one dollar for every two dollars earned. That is, if a worker earned $1,500 a year, he would lose $150 in social security benefits for that year. For all earnings over $1,500, he would lose benefits on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Under the 1961 amendment, a retired worker can make up to $1,700 a year before he starts losing his benefits on a dollar-for-dollar basis. On an income of $1,700 a year, a retired worker would now lose only $50 in annual benefits.

It is estimated that the passage of this 1961 amendment will give over four million people new or increased benefits amounting to more than $700 million within the first year. To meet the burden of these obligations, Congress has provided for an increase of 1/8 of 1 percent in the social security tax on payrolls and wages effective January 1, 1962. For self-employed persons the increase will be 2/10 of 1 percent.

For those having to pay toward these benefits, the new rates will mean more out of the pocketbook. Here are the new maximum dollar amounts to be paid by employers and employees:

	Per year	Total for both
1962	$150	$300
1963-65	174	348
1966-67	198	396
1968	222	444

In addition, self-employed individuals pay on earnings up to $4,800. Maximum payments to social security are:

	Per year
1962	$225
1963-65	259.20
1966-67	297.60
1968	331.20

A farmer who has a net income of $4,800 or more and who employs one full-time man, paying him at least $4,800, would pay $375 into social security in 1962 and $553 in 1968. In addition, the employee would pay $150 in 1962 and $222 in 1968.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 28

GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

A. R. Allen

Three federal agencies are concerned with farm credit: the Farm Credit Administration, the Farmers Home Administration, and the Rural Electrification Administration. Each one has different functions and has developed by reason of different needs. In future issues we shall discuss the Farmers Home Administration and the Rural Electrification Administration.

Farm Credit Administration

Although a part of the Department of Agriculture from 1933 until 1953, the Farm Credit Administration is an independent agency of the executive branch of the government created in 1933 to bring all federal agencies dealing with agricultural credit into one unit.

The United States is divided into 12 farm credit districts. In each district there is a federal land bank, a federal intermediate credit bank, and a bank for cooperatives. Illinois is in a district with Arkansas and Missouri.

Federal Land Bank System

The federal land bank system was established by the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916. This system is cooperative and completely farmer-owned. All of the approximately 800 federal land bank associations are owned by their member-borrowers, and all of the stock of the 12 land banks is owned by these associations. Farmers may obtain land bank loans only through federal land bank associations. The borrower purchases association stock in an amount equal to 5 percent of his loan. The association in turn purchases a like amount of stock in the federal land bank. Each federal land bank association is managed by a board of directors elected by and from its membership.

The amount loaned to a farmer generally may not exceed 65 percent of the appraised normal agricultural value of the farm. The rate of interest charged on such loans is based on the cost of operation. Land banks obtain their funds to make these loans principally from the sale of consolidated federal farm loan bonds to the investing public. These bonds are not guaranteed by the government as to either principal or interest.

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Federal Intermediate Credit Banks

The 12 federal intermediate credit banks were authorized in 1923. Prior to 1957 they were entirely government-owned. However, pursuant to the Farm Credit Act of 1956, production credit associations and other financing institutions have acquired participation certificates issued by the banks. The 1956 act provides for the gradual retirement of government-owned capital stock as private capital and surplus reserves are built up in amounts sufficient to support the banks' financial operations.

These credit banks do not lend directly to farmers or otherwise engage in a general banking business. They do make loans to and discount agricultural paper for production credit associations, state and national banks, agricultural credit corporations, livestock loan companies, and similar lending groups. They also may make loans to and discount paper for banks for cooperatives and federal land banks. These are usually short-term loans not exceeding 12 months. The banks obtain the funds they use principally from sales to the investing public of short-term collateral trust debentures, which are not guaranteed by the government as to either principal or interest.

Production Credit Associations

Farmers who need short-term credit obtain their loans through local production credit associations that are supervised by the federal intermediate credit banks. The production credit associations were originally capitalized by government-owned production credit corporations. However, today about 92 percent of the 494 associations have retired all government capital and are completely owned by their farmer-members, and the remaining associations are largely owned by farmer-members. All voting stock in a production credit association is owned by its member-borrowers, who elect the directors from their number. Each stockholder has one vote regardless of the number of shares he owns.

Farmers may obtain short-term loans for general agricultural purposes and other requirements. The size of each loan depends upon the financial requirements of the member's individual farm operations, his ability to use it wisely, and his ability to repay it from his income without danger of impairing the efficiency of his farm operations. The rate of interest varies among associations but is at the lowest possible cost consistent with sound business practices. These local production credit associations obtain most of their loan funds by rediscounting farmers' notes with the federal intermediate credit banks.

Banks for Cooperatives

A central bank for cooperatives in Washington, D. C., and 12 district banks for cooperatives were established to provide a permanent source of credit to farmers' cooperatives. The district banks make three classes of loans to local cooperatives: commodity, operating capital, and facility loans. Cooperatives own part of the capital stock of each bank. As their investment grows, government-owned capital will be repaid. The central bank in Washington serves the district banks by making direct loans to them and participating in loans that exceed their respective lending limits.

CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 29

GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

A. R. Allen

The federal land banks, federal intermediate credit banks and banks for cooperatives operate under [illegible] principles. Because these agencies did not meet the credit needs arising from such catastrophes as drought or floods and the credit needs of so-called poor-risk farmers, another credit system was developed that is now the Farmers Home Administration.

The Resettlement Administration was created in 1935 to administer projects for resettlement of low-income families and to make loans to help farmers, tenant-farmers, sharecroppers and farm workers purchase farms and equipment.

In 1937 the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act created the Farm Security Administration to take over the functions of the Resettlement Administration.

Both the Resettlement Administration and the Farm Security Administration carried on programs of rural rehabilitation to get farm families who were on relief or destitute on a self-supporting basis. The program functioned through government loans coupled with a supervised plan for improving farm operations.

The Farmers Home Administration

The Farmers Home Administration, established in 1946, merged the functions of the Farm Security Administration and the Emergency Crop and Feed Loan Division of the Farm Credit Administration. The agency's purpose is to provide a system of credit to farmers who are not able to get the credit they need elsewhere. The borrower's operations may be supervised where needed to assist him in planning and adopting sound farm and home practices that will promote successful farming and protect the government's interest.

All loans are made through local Farmers Home Administration offices, generally located in county seat towns. A [illegible] committee of three persons, at least two of them farmers, determines applicants' eligibility for loans, certifies the value of farms to be bought and reviews borrowers' progress.

The 87th Congress, through Title III of the Agricultural Act of 1961, revised and consolidated the statutory authority of the Secretary of Agriculture for making and insuring loans to farmers and ranchers and liberalized some of the rules in regard to loans by this Act and by Title VIII of the Housing Act of 1961.

Operating loans. The main purpose of an operating loan is to help an operator of a family-size farm to make adjustments in his farm and home business and increase his income. Loans may be made for paying costs of reorganization of a farming system; purchasing livestock, poultry and farm equipment; purchasing feed, seed, fertilizer, insecticides and farm supplies and meeting other essential

farm operating expenses, including cash rent; financing land and water development, use and conservation; refinancing existing indebtedness; and meeting other farm and home needs, including family subsistence and loan closing costs.

A borrower's total indebtedness for operating loans may not exceed $35,000. However, the law provides that not more than 25 percent of all available loan funds may be used for loans that would cause any borrower's indebtedness for operating loans to exceed $15,000. An operating loan is repayable in one to seven years, but may be renewed for not more than an additional five years.

Real Estate Loans. These loans are made to farm tenants, laborers, sharecroppers and owners of inadequate or underimproved farms. Loan funds may be used to buy a family-type farm and put it into good condition, or to improve or enlarge a farm to make it an efficient family-type unit, or to build and repair buildings on family-type units, or to improve land and water development, use and conservation, or to refinance debts and pay loan closing costs.

A loan may not be made if it would cause the borrower's total indebtedness to exceed $60,000 or the normal value of the farm. The loan may not exceed the amount certified by the county committee.

Real estate loans are repayable over periods up to 40 years, and the interest is not to exceed 5 percent. Real estate loans are made from funds advanced by private lenders as well as from funds appropriated annually by Congress.

Farm Housing Loans. Farm housing loans are authorized under Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 as amended. The loans are made to farm owners and long-term tenants to construct and repair farmhouses and other essential farm buildings and for other uses, such as adding bathrooms and utility rooms, modernizing kitchens and financing other home and farm service building improvements. A 1961 amendment provides for insuring private loans for housing and related facilities for domestic farm labor. These loans cannot be used to buy land or refinance debts and are repayable over periods up to 33 years.

Emergency Loans. The Secretary of Agriculture may designate any area as an emergency area if there is a need for agricultural credit that cannot be met from other sources at reasonable rates and terms and where the need for such credit results from a natural disaster. Emergency loans may be made for any purpose for which real estate loans and operating loans are made, but not in an amount greater than that certified by the county committee. For all emergency loans the interest rate will be 3 percent or less. The Secretary may also make loans, without regard to designated emergency areas, to persons or corporations who have suffered severe production losses not general to the area.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 30 December 1, 1961

GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

A. R. Allen

The Rural Electrification Administration

The Rural Electrification Administration was created in 1935 by Executive Order under the authority of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act. In 1936, Congress passed the Rural Electrification Act. REA became a part of the Department of Agriculture in 1939.

In 1944 an act of Congress established the interest rate on all REA loans at 2 percent and increased the permissible loan period to a maximum of 35 years. In 1949 REA was authorized to make loans to furnish and improve rural telephone service.

Loans for rural electric service. The REA may make 100 percent loans to provide financing for rural electric facilities. The law provides that, in the making of electrification loans, preference shall be given to public systems, cooperatives and nonprofit or limited dividend associations. As of January 1, 1960, Congress had authorized electrification loan funds totaling $5.1 billion. More than 1,000 REA-financed power systems were [illegible] serving about 4 3/4 million consumers.

Loans for wiring, appliances and plumbing. The REA may finance the wiring of farmsteads and the purchase and installation of electrical appliances and plumbing. Such loans must usually be repaid within five years. Loans are not made direct to the consumer, but are made to REA borrowers for relending to their members. The interest rate charged to members is about 4 percent.

Loans for rural telephone service. Loans are made to independent telephone companies and cooperatives for extending or improving service. Through the fiscal year 1960, Congress had authorized over $654 million for telephone loans. By January 1, 1960, REA had approved $633 million in loans to 686 borrowers to bring new or improved service to 1,288,856 subscribers in 45 states.

Repayment of loans. By January 1, 1960, electric association borrowers had repaid $669,224,462 in principal, about 19 percent of the total loans. They had paid $397,017,809 in interest on their loans. In addition, they had made payments ahead of schedule amounting to $154,020,026. In the telephone program, by the same date, the borrowers had repaid $14,211,176 in principal and $11,853,699 in interest. Payments ahead of schedule amounted to $2,565,047.

AA:HEG:je
11/30/61

CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 31

THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961

H. W. Hannah

Agriculture is materially affected and in turn must be genuinely concerned with our federal programs to help the new and developing nations of the world. Recently Congress approved a new foreign assistance program, part of which is entitled "Act for International Development" Abbreviated this is "AID," successor to "ICA."

Included in its statement of policy are these significant statements:

> "Assistance to help strengthen the forces of freedom by aiding peoples of less developed friendly countries of the world to develop their resources and improve their living standards, to realize their aspirations for justice, education, dignity, and respect as individual human beings and to establish responsible governments.
>
> "To help make a historic demonstration that economic growth and political democracy can go hand in hand to the end that an enlarged community of free, stable, and self-reliant countries can reduce world tensions and insecurity.
>
> "Assistance shall be based upon sound plans and programs; be directed toward the social as well as economic aspects of economic development; be responsive to the efforts of the recipient countries to mobilize their own resources and help themselves; be cognizant of the external and internal pressures which hamper their growth; and should emphasize long-range development assistance as the primary instrument of such growth."

Loans from the Development Loan Fund are to be made "to promote the economic development of less developed friendly countries and areas, with emphasis upon assisting long-range plans and programs designed to develop economic resources and increase productive capacities."

Development grants and technical cooperation are to "promote the economic development of less developed friendly countries and areas, with emphasis upon assisting the development of human resources."

In countries that are in the earlier stage of economic development, emphasis shall be on the development of education and human resources. There is a special provision on loans to small farmers. It reads:

> "It is the policy of the United States and the purpose of this section to strengthen the economies of less developed friendly countries, and in friendly countries where the economy is essentially rural or based on small villages, to provide assistance designed to improve agricultural methods and techniques, to stimulate and encourage the development of local programs, of self-help and mutual cooperation, particularly through loans of foreign currencies for associations of operators of small farms, formed for the purpose of joint action designed to increase or diversify agricultural productivity."

Investment guaranties are provided to attract American business to the friendly developing countries. Housing projects in Latin American countries are specifically encouraged.

Of particular interest is the following provision on development research:

> "The President is authorized to use funds made available for this part (Part I) to carry out programs of research into, and evaluation of, the process of economic development in less developed friendly countries and areas, into the factors affecting the relative success and costs of development activities, and into the means, techniques, and such other aspects of development assistance as he may determine, in order to render such assistance of increasing value and benefit."

With respect to "Assistance to countries having agrarian economies," it reads:

> "Wherever the President determines that the economy of any country is in major part an agrarian economy, emphasis shall be placed on programs which reach the people in such country, who are engaged in agrarian pursuits or who live in the villages or rural areas in such country, including programs which will assist them in the establishment of indigenous cottage industries, in the improvement of agricultural methods and techniques, and which will encourage the development of local programs of self-help and mutual cooperation."

Recently appointed administrator is Fowler Hamilton; deputy administrator is Frank Coffin. Organization of the new "AID" agency has not been completed

HWH:HDG:je
12/14/61

THIS WEEK...

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

The old year, 1960, seemed to pass rapidly but, even so, a lot of things happened and many changes occurred at the Dixon Springs Experiment Station. We might quickly identify it as the year of horses and horticulture.

The quarter-horse herd had been moved the year before from Urbana to Dixon Springs, but 1960 marked the first foalings on the Station. In like manner, the year before last the Department of Horticulture did some work on the Station, but in 1960 Bill Courter, extension horticulturist, became permanently stationed here and proceeded to produce strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and many other small fruits and vegetables in superabundance.

Experimental work in pellet feeding has been carried on since the early part of the decade, but, again, 1960 marked the completion of a feed handling and processing plant, including an operational pellet mill. This year we have been able to compound a wide variety of pelleted rations, including even corn stover pellets and pellets in a variety of shades, shapes and sizes.

Of course, we'll all remember 1960 as the year of the big snow, when well over a foot fell during the last week in February. It continued to fall during the next four weeks, and at no time during this period did we have less than a foot of snow on the ground. Oakley Robinson, cattle herdsman, will probably remember best of all, because it came in the midst of calving season and the cow herd's fescue pastures were safely buried.

Then, 1960 was a good growing season too. Moisture conditions were excellent for producing pasture and grain. The fall was open and dry, making a relatively easy harvest. Corn on strong standing stalks yielded well into the 80- to 100-bushel range.

-more-

Added to our staff in July was an area resources development adviser, Les Broom. Also, late last summer the Dick Andrews family and house trailer took up residence on the Station. Dick is our trapper, and every day he brings in a wide variety of animals--coons, skunks, rats, mice, foxes, possums--in fact, anything he can get in his traps. The reason behind all this trapping is to determine the prevalence of leptospirosis in the wild-animal population.

During the past year, Station personnel have been called upon to help with more and more southern Illinois beef herds entering the performance testing program.

You can learn about the many other things that happened during 1960 on Station tours and during cattle week and sheep day. Cattle week at the Station this year will be the week of February 6. Sheep day will be February 15.

HAC:rl
1/4/61

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE
AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF ILLINOIS

College of Agriculture, University of Illinois
United States Department of Agriculture,
Cooperating

January 12, 1961

and Home Economics

To All Farm Advisers:

Attached is a copy of the program for the Dixon Springs Experiment Station Cattle Feeders' Days, February 6-10. As you may already know, Monday, February 6, is reserved for all counties other than those in District 5. If you plan to bring a group on Monday, please notify Jack Lewis so he can order lunches.

The dates of February 7-10 are reserved for counties in District 5. It is not necessary for these county farm advisers to notify Lewis of the number in their group.

We hope to see you there.

Sincerely yours,

G. R. Carlisle

G. R. Carlisle
Livestock Extension
Specialist

GRC:mfb

DIXON SPRINGS CATTLE FEEDERS' DAYS

February 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 1961

MORNING SESSION

9:30	Welcome.	J. M. Lewis Chairman
9:45	Cobalt Bullets, Tranquilizer Implants, Hay and Wafers, Protein-Grain Comparison Levels for Fattening Heifers. . . .	G. F. Cmarik
10:05	Silage Feeding - Grain Sorghum and Corn, Pasture Supplements - Protein and Hay.	G. E. McKibben
10:25	Lepto, Anaplasmosis, Shipping Fever, and Parasite Control, i.e., Systemics.	M. E. Mansfield

I N T E R M I S S I O N

10:45

11:00	Where We Are on Pelleted Feeds - Summary	H. A. Cate
11:20	Reports From U. of I. and Other Stations, Crossbreeding - Time of Calving, Better Bulls.	G. R. Carlisle Animal Science Department
11:40	Question Period	
12:00	Lunch (will be provided at modest cost)	

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00	Tour	F. C. Hinds Chairman
	Feeder Grades and Current Markets.	Ed Lamb Producers Livestock Marketing Association
	Current Tests	
	Time of Calving	
3:00	Tour Ends	

JML:mfb
1/11/61

THIS WEEK....

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

On several occasions in this column we have mentioned that grain sorghums compare favorably with corn in both grain and silage yields. Therefore, more and more work has been done with sorghums at Dixon Springs.

This year George McKibben, Station agronomist, carried on an interesting cultural study involving row spacing of Texas 610 grain sorghum. George drilled the sorghum in rows of 40, 30, 20 and 10 inches with about two inches between plants in the row.

Twenty-Inch Rows Best

Grain yields were best from the 20-inch rows, being nearly double those from the conventional 40-inch rows. Yields for the various row spacings were as follows: 40 inches, 66 bushels; 30 inches, 76 bushels; 20 inches, 126 bushels; and 10 inches, 80 bushels.

These yields were obtained without cultivation. However, 2,4-D herbicide was applied when the sorghum was about four inches tall. Conceivably, cultivation would have increased grain yields on the wider spacings. With the closer spacings, 20- and 10-inch rows, weeds were well controlled. The herbicide plus shading of the sorghum plants resulted in a nearly weed-free crop.

Silage Yields

Silage yields did not vary greatly between the 30-, 20- and 10-inch spacings, ranging from 16 1/2 to 17 1/2 tons an acre. The silage yield for the sorghum in 40-inch rows was 12 1/2 tons.

Higher Nitrogen Applied to Close Rows

In this experiment the closer spaced rows received greater amounts of nitrogen fertilizer. The nitrogen was applied in August, and row applications were

-more-

the same for all spacings; therefore, on a per-acre basis, the 20-inch rows received twice as much nitrogen. Other fertility treatments were equal on the acre basis.

The Best for the New Year

The Dixon Springs staff takes this opportunity to wish you the very best for the New Year. We hope to be of increasing service to you, and we invite your continued interest in and use of information from your Experiment Station.

-30-

IAC:mfb
./12/61

THIS WEEK....

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Dick Andrews, a native of Nebraska, schooled in Iowa and now at Dixon Springs, has picked up the name of "Trapper Dick," because that's actually what he does--trap. A few of the animals Dick has caught in his traps are coon, possum, weasel, mink, skunk, ground hog, fox, squirrel, rabbit, mice, rats and moles. He has also caught turtles, snakes, lizards and salamanders.

Well, now, trapping seems like an unusual activity on the Station--a Station primarily concerned with pasture and livestock production. But the trapping operation does tie in with livestock health. You see, Dick is working under Dr. Ferris, College of Veterinary Medicine, in an effort to learn the incidence in wildlife of a disease called leptospirosis.

What Is Lepto?

Leptospirosis--"lepto" for short--is of real economic importance to Illinois livestock producers, especially cattle men. Many Illinois cattle are infected. Among the symptoms are abortions, elevated temperatures and bloody urine. Infected cattle lose weight and go off feed. The disease affects all age groups of cattle, calves, yearlings, cows, steers and bulls.

Disease Incidence Low in Trapped Animals

From each animal trapped, blood, kidney, spleen, liver and urine samples are obtained for laboratory analysis to determine whether or not the disease organism is present. Dick reports that, of the hundreds of animals caught, very few isolations of the disease have been made.

Grant of Funds

This work that Dr. Ferris and Dick are engaged in is made possible through a grant of funds from the National Institute of Health. And the reason, as Dick

pointed out, for carrying on the study at Dixon Springs is not that leptospirosis is any more prevalent in southern Illinois than in other parts of the state, but that here at the Station large numbers of cattle are subject to regular and frequent health checks. Frequent blood sampling of cows in the herd makes it possible to determine approximately when and where an outbreak of "lepto" occurred. Knowing this, Dick can then limit his trapping operations to that area. Well, that makes good sense; it increases the possibility of appraising the involvement or noninvolvement of wildlife in transmitting the disease. From time to time we'll try to keep you posted on the findings of Dick the Trapper.

Cattle Days and Sheep Days

Coming events on the Station are Cattle Days during the week of February 6 and Sheep Day on February 15. For Cattle Days, different counties are scheduled on each of the five days as follows: February 6 - open to all counties not otherwise scheduled; February 7 - Massac, Pope, Hardin, Saline, Gallatin and Williamson; February 8 - Johnson, Pulaski, Alexander, Jackson, Perry and Wabash; February 9 - Randolph, Franklin, Washington, Edwards and Union; and February 10 - Jefferson, Wayne, Hamilton and White.

HAC:wl
1/18/61

THIS WEEK....

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Recently, Bob Nelson, Extension Forester, reminded us that we should take a real good look at our forest product supply. Each of us uses 66 cubic feet of wood in a year's time and 2 1/2 acres of timberland are required to satisfy this need. Today, in the United States there are three acres of forest land for each man, woman, and child. By the year 2000, it is estimated that there will be only two acres per capita. Based on present needs and present timber growth rates, in the year 2000 we'll be forced to do without some of the wood products to which we have grown accustomed.

In forestry, unlike grain crops or livestock products, we cannot plan a year or two ahead, but need to look into the next 25 years. In other words, we can't plant trees today and harvest this year or next year or even in the next decade.

Nelson reminded us that privately owned farm woodlands in southern Illinois represent one acre in each seven. Bob stated that one acre in seven is a whale of a chunk of land to walk around and forget each year in our farm business. This 15% of our farm acres could be improved and contribute to farm income.

First and foremost, we can establish some improved pastures to get the cows out of the woods. STOP GRAZING WOODLANDS. Secondly, we can practice IMPROVEMENT CUTTING. This involves selling out culls or girdling the weed trees. Thirdly, provide FIRE PROTECTION.

Nelson advises that we need to use a common sense method of harvesting. Wasteful harvesting, so commonly used, is that of selling in one operation all the trees in the stand, good, bad, mature and immature trees. Bob says that the cattleman doesn't sell all his cattle at one time, the thin, the young, the old, the fat,

-more-

the culls and the works. Rather the cattleman sells his culls and those ready and nature for market. We need to apply the same marketing approach to our timber stands.

Forestry research is one of the enterprises of the University of Illinois, Dixon Springs Station. For more information, contact Bob Nelson, Extension Forester, Dixon Springs Experiment Station, Robbs, Illinois.

HAC:dl
5-22-61

THIS WEEK....

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois, Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois prepared by H. A. Cate)

If you did not plow down nitrogen before planting your corn crop, you may consider yourself fortunate. You may consider yourself fortunate not because you missed out on the nitrogen fertilizer, but because now you can spend your nitrogen dollar for sidedress nitrogen.

Sidedress Nitrogen More Effective

In many years of study of plow down and sidedress nitrogen here on the Dixon Springs Station, it has been demonstrated, time after time, that one-half to two-thirds the amount of nitrogen applied as sidedress will produce equally high yields of corn. On corn following fescue sod with 167 pounds of nitrogen plowed down, the corn yielded 84 bushels; with 100 pounds of sidedress nitrogen, yields were 81 bushels. On corn following corn, yields for both plow down and sidedress nitrogen were 72 bushels.

Pasture Tips

Now that the corn's all planted and the hay all made pastures can receive some attention. Earlier pasture attention was needed but then it's never too late. In fact we've been known to clip pastures at Christmas time, primarily to control brush.

But, now is a better time than Christmas to clip pastures for weed control and to even up the growth. If you plan to graze a pasture next winter, you'll save on beef cow wintering costs if you roll the pasture clippings up and leave them where they lay. The bales on each acre should be worth 30 days wintering for two beef cows.

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Horticulture Field Event

On Thursday, July 6, Bill Courter plans a twilight field meeting at the small fruit and vegetable plots at Dixon Springs. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

You'll see tests with tomato varieties, tomato culture, squash, strawberry, and blueberry varieties. It is planned to have a mulch planting demonstration with a planter designed to lay and plant through plastic and paper mulch. Also you'll visit the plastic greenhouse.

HAC:cm
6/29/61

THIS WEEK. . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Close row planting of grain sorghums and dwarf corn looked good here on the Station last year. George McKibben, crops and soils researcher, reported yield increases of more than 80 percent for 20-inch rows over the conventional 40-inch row spacing.

In 40-inch rows, grain sorghum yielded 66 bushels, and in the 20-inch spacing, 125 bushels. Dwarf corn in 40-inch rows yielded 70 bushels with an increase to 127 bushels for the 20-inch spacing. The yields of both sorghum and dwarf corn were intermediate for the 30-inch spacing.

Close row planting of regular height corn here on the Station has not looked as favorable with little increase in yield and a big increase in lodging and down corn. On the other hand, the shorter growing sorghums and dwarf corn resist the lodging hazard.

Livestock Health - Losses High

Livestock losses in the United States cost us some 2 1/2 billion dollars. Put into terms that we can easier comprehend, this loss represents 6 percent of our total livestock investment or 15 percent of total marketable livestock produced.

Dr. Mansfield, Station veterinarian, says that we may better combat this huge loss through sound preventive disease control than through treatment of disease. Preventive medicine involves management control such as sanitation, caution in purchasing or moving diseased animals onto farms, as well as good nutrition. Treatment of disease on the other hand, though necessary, is a little like locking the barn door after the horse has been stolen. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on preventive medicine.

attle Country

Southern Illinois has relatively high rainfall, 45 inches annually, to ake pastures boom. The area is favored with mild winters--year round grazing--and and prices are reasonable. In fact, the cost of improved land needed to carry one eef cow the year round and raise a calf to weaning will be no more than most range reas and is about half that of renowned cattle areas, reputation cattle country. and area needed here to carry a beef cow the year round will run from three to our acres. This means a land investment cost of $300 to $400 per cow. This is ot at all out of line for cattle range costs.

IAC:bm
7/5/61

THIS WEEK....

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

July has been a month of low rainfall here on the Station, but it has also been cool. Had it been hot, dry and windy, moisture for pastures and crops could be critical by this time. Nonetheless, Lee Gard, soils and water researcher, started the irrigation pump this week, first irrigating five acres of experimental pasture and now experimental corn plots.

Irrigation of Corn Pays

Lee Gard has concluded from moisture studies and rainfall records during the past 21 years that in most years corn yields on silt-pan soils will be reduced by lack of moisture. Drastic yield reductions occur in more than half of the years. Here on the Station, in three out of four years, applying four inches of water in two applications, with about ten days between irrigations, has produced yield increases.

Irrigation of pastures have produced plenty of forage, but not enough added gain on beef steers to pay the cost of irrigating. Present studies are being aimed at pasture supplementation to improve animal gains.

For further information on both pasture and corn irrigation, write to us here at the Station for University Bulletin 640 and for a reprint of an article entitled "Moisture Loss and Corn Yields on a Silt-Pan Soil as Affected by Three Levels of Water Supply."

Ram Sale

Twenty-one rams were sold at auction on Thursday, July 13, at the Station. Eight Suffolk rams sold for an average of $60.93. Eight Hampshires averaged $43.75, and five Targhees averaged $40.50.

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Tom Saxe from Thompsonville, in Franklin County, paid the top price of $105.00 for a four-year-old, deep-bodied, broad-rumped Suffolk ram.

Excellent New Pasture

Station crops and soils man George McKibben is getting so expert that he rarely fails to establish excellent pastures. This year is no exception. A trip through the Elam bottom and up the hill through the Elam upland, past the pond and on up to the sheep barns, is proof-positive of what George is able to do with fertility and proven seeding practices.

About ten years ago this same Elam upland tract was a wilderness of sassafras, persimmon, brush and weeds. Brush and trees, arm and leg size in diameter, were common. Many who saw the reclamation of this area ten years ago questioned the economic soundness of spending $40 to $50 an acre to clear, fertilize and seed. However, today after two rotations this former wilderness has a heavy clover, alfalfa and grass seeding with the potential of producing 300 to 500 pounds of beef or lamb gain per acre.

HAC:mfb
7/20/61

T H I S W E E K . . .

A T D I X O N S P R I N G S

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Some time ago we reported that grain sorghum and dwarf corn yields were increased by about 80 percent by closing up the rows from 40-inch to 20-inch spacing. Last year regular corn yields were increased by nearly 40 percent by the same close-row planting. On plots taken out of meadow and planted to corn, the 20-inch row spacing planted at the rate of 24,000 plants per acre yielded 139 bushels, while the conventional 40-inch spacing at 16,000 plants acre yielded 102 bushels.

Last summer was a nearly perfect corn-growing year. Moisture was adequate and the close-row plantings with high plant populations looked good. During the summer of 1959, there was little or no increase in yield for the close-row planting, and the level of down corn was high, especially in the higher plant populations.

Cobalt

Evidently the fields, forages and pastures growing on the Station are adequate in colbalt, a trace mineral needed in very small amounts by livestock. Normally, cobalt levels are considered adequate if the ration contains one part in ten million.

Last summer cobalt bullets, were placed in the stomachs of lambs being fed on pasture and in drylot, grazing yearling ewes and grazing yearling cattle. The cobalt bullet is slowly soluble. In no instance did the treatment increase gains or performance over those of untreated control animals.

Another Use for Pellet Mill

The Station has no grain-drying equipment as such, but it does have a pellet mill and cooler. This equipment was used to good advantage this year in handling grain, both wheat and oats, harvested with high moisture. Without drying,

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much of the oats and wheat harvested this year would have heated and spoiled in storage. But the grain was not too wet to grind and pellet and then cool through the pellet mill cooler. So today we have stored pelleted wheat, oats and mixtures of oats and wheat in the overhead bins at the feed processing plant to use in our winter feeding programs.

HAC:wl
3/10/61

THIS WEEK....

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Plowing for Fall Seedings

Grasses and weeds use an abundance of moisture during the summer. Plowing now will help keep seedbeds moist for late summer and early fall pasture seedings. Also, early plowing allows time for liming and fertilizing well ahead of seeding time. Some of this early plowing is being done now on the Station.

Liver Sampling

Vitamin A nutrition for livestock is receiving increasing attention. Here on the Station liver samples are being taken from yearling cattle to determine the amount of vitamin A storage. Liver samples taken in April and again this week will help us measure the vitamin A efficiency of wintering rations as well as of different kinds of pastures, some of which are supplemented with vitamin A.

Japanese Visitors

Many of the world's people do not enjoy the luxury of eating meat and dairy products. Among them are the people of Japan. In Japan, food--rice and cereal grains--is produced for direct human consumption. However, with increased incomes the people are demanding more and more animal foods.

To learn methods of producing and using crops for livestock, eleven Japanese agricultural leaders are spending two months in the United States. This week the group spent two days at the Dixon Springs Experiment Station. While here they were primarily interested in pasture and crop rotations, methods of feeding, and grazing management for highest beef gain.

From the Foresters

Loblolly pine grows faster than shortleaf pine. But shortleaf pine weighs about 100 pounds more per cord. However, Bob Gilmore, forestry researcher, says the loblolly will produce more total pulp. Both loblolly and shortleaf pine are well adapted to southern Illinois soil and climate.

HAC:mfb
8/3/61

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

A group of farm men and women and townspeople from the southern eight counties in Illinois are planning a trip to Morgantown, Kentucky, on August 29 and 30. Purpose of the trip, planned by Les Broom, Area Resource Development Adviser, is to acquaint Illinois people with the progress and methods used by Kentucky people in their rural development program during the past five years.

Going on the two-day tour will be a farm man and woman, a city man and woman, and the farm adviser and home adviser from each of the eight counties. Broom says the Kentucky rural developers have been working on a two-phase program on a countywide as well as community basis.

Increased Interest in Beef Testing

Last year the Station staff assisted about a dozen southern Illinois farmers in production-testing of their beef herds. About one-third of the herds on test were from Pulaski-Alexander counties. This year the Pulaski-Alexander farm advisers, Stan Ceglinski and Joe Small, already have the testing program under way and two new herds have been added.

In the test, each calf is weighed and graded on a feeder grade basis. Calves vary in age and sex. Calf weights are adjusted for age, sex, and age of dam so that all weights are standardized for comparison of the cows' production.

Calves from several herds have averaged over two pounds of daily gain from birth to weaning; those from some other herds have not gained this well. Do you know how much your calves are gaining?

If you are interested in enrolling in the Illinois testing program, see your farm adviser for details. Each cow and calf must be identified and the birth date of each calf recorded. If you have this information, you're ready to go.

HAC:mfb
8/17/61

THIS WEEK....

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Corn silage is a good winter feed for beef calves. Last winter a full feed of corn silage with soybean oil meal to provide the protein and a free-choice offering of minerals produced average daily gains of more than 1 2/3 pounds on beef calves. This gain was made on silage from well-eared corn.

Drilled Corn Disappointing

However, not all corn silage does as well. Corn produced from drilling with a grain drill in 7-inch rows and heavily nitrated produced less than a pound of daily gain on similar calves. Yields of silage from the drilled corn were also less than yields from corn planted in the usual way--40-inch rows at 16,000 plants per acre.

Again this year on the Station corn was put in with a wheat drill and feeding trials similar to those of last year will again be conducted. This past week the drilled corn was mowed, wilted and then chopped and stored for silage. Again this year, as last, yields of the drilled corn were disappointing. This corn has no grain, only stalk and leaves. Considering both yield of silage and gains, the old way looks better.

Feeding Cow Herd Now for Next Winter

Christmas dinner for the beef cow herd is now being placed on the table. There are several ways we could do this job: (1) We could nitrate some fescue pasture for winter grazing. (2) We could roll up some pasture clippings for the dry cows to eat next winter. Or (3) we could do as we are now doing on the Big Wells tract.

On the Big Wells, where we want to winter a cow herd, the pasture has been completely used this summer. There are no pasture clippings to roll up into bales

-more-

to leave on the field. But the other day I saw a truck-load of round bales, pasture clippings from another area, being unloaded on the Big Wells tract. So today the table is well laid for the beef herd's Christmas dinner.

Mark This Date

Thursday, October 5, is the day for the Egyptian Livestock Association's Annual Feeder Calf Sale on the Dixon Springs Experiment Station. This year's consignment of calves should be no exception to the quality, farm-fresh cattle offered in previous years.

HAC:ml
8/23/61

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

The most successful and most productive pastures are established early. Next to proper fertility treatment and the seeding of adapted grasses and legumes, time of seeding is the most important ingredient in pasture-making. For top success in southern Illinois, seed before September 15.

Complete Fall Seeding

With early fall seeding, the complete pasture mixture, grasses, alfalfa and clovers, may be planted. These early seedings are off to a good start and ready to graze or to cut for hay the following spring.

A common mixture to be used for summer-long grazing on the Dixon Springs Station will consist of six pounds of orchard grass, eight pounds of alfalfa, three pounds of red clover and one pound of ladino clover. The orchard grass is drilled through a grain drill, and the alfalfa and clovers are seeded from the "grass" seed attachment in a band over the fertilizer. If the land is rough and rolling, drilling the small grain will afford more winter cover. In southern Illinois, barley is one of our better companion small-grain crops.

Later Seedings

If the seeding is done after September 15, we would recommend drilling a small-grain nurse crop with the grass. For later seedings we would consider it wiser to leave the legumes in the bag to be broadcast on the small grain and grass the following spring. But again it is hard to beat the early seeding dates.

Herd Health

Doctor Mansfield, Station veterinarian, has warned cattlemen that now is the expected season for anaplasmosis infection. Anaplasmosis is an infectious disease

-more-

caused by tiny parasites that enter the animal's body and destroy the red blood cells.

Early detection of the disease permits treatment that will reduce death losses--and losses from anaplasmosis can run high!! Daily inspection will detect the cow or cows lagging behing during movement of the herd. This lagging cow may be suffering from anemia caused by the disease and will show paleness or jaundiced condition of the skin, teats and visible membranes about the eye, nose and mouth.

Webb Will Be Back

Bob Webb, Station superintendent, has written that he and his family expect to return to Dixon Springs about mid-November. For the past two years Webb has been advising and helping the people of India develop an agricultural experiment station.

HAC:mfb
9/7/61

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

In addition to following other sound management practices, people who make money from sheep are on hand at lambing time to assist when needed. However, ewes are not very considerate of people. They lamb in their own good time, rain or shine, night or day, this week or next. Often lambing extends over a period of several weeks, and the sheep farmer may be in for many sleepless nights.

Frank Hinds, sheep researcher, and Gene Lauderdale, Station sheep herdsman, theorize that the biggest cause of a long lambing season is a long breeding season. Ewes breed in their own good time, and no sooner. It's their nature to breed only once in a 14- to 16-day period, and then they may not conceive on the first breeding. When ewes in the flock breed and conceive on different days and then vary a few days from the norm of 146 days for carrying their lambs, the lambing season is likely to spread over several weeks.

In attacking this problem, Hinds and Lauderdale are recycling the heat or breeding periods so that ewes in the experimental group will start to lamb at about the same time. That is, at the word "go" the hormones in all ewes will start to flow at about the same time,causing the egg to mature and the ewes to come into heat at about the same time--or at least within three to five days instead of the usual 14 to 16 days.

To recycle the breeding period, progesterone is being fed to the ewes for 14 days, which include one complete heat cycle. As long as the progesterone is fed, all normal reproductive processes cease. Progesterone is the hormone secreted naturally in pregnant animals that stops heat and egg development.

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Hinds reports that last year the recycling achieved by feeding progesterone brought 86 percent of the ewes into lambing within nine days. Hinds also points out other interesting and profitable applications of the recycling process: With lambs of about the same age, management would be simplified. With breeding dates close together (synchronized breeding dates is another way of saying it), artificial insemination would be easier to handle. With artificial breeding, more lambs from outstanding rams would be possible, and people who make money from sheep could make more money.

HAC:vl
9/14/61

T H I S W E E K . . .

A T D I X O N S P R I N G S

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

In performance testing of beef cow herds in southern Illinois, it is interesting to note the differences in average weaning weights from farm to farm. If we were asked to pick the one single reason (and there are several) for these differences, we would be forced to answer pastures--both amount and kind of pasture. In general, the heaviest calves are produced on farms with excess forage and on farms with fertilized pastures of grass and legume mixtures.

Individual Cows Important

But even with plenty of top pastures, the individual cows in a herd vary greatly in production. It is not uncommon to find cows weaning 330-pound calves and cows weaning 500-pound calves in the same herd and with nearly the same birth dates for the calves. Needless to say, it is important to know these cows in order to cull and select breeding stock intelligently. A difference of 170 pounds in weaning weights is today worth over $40. And if you think the heavier calf is necessarily lower in quality and will bring less on the market, we say you have another think coming; at least you had better take another look. Find out from your farm adviser when calves in your county will be weighed and graded, and look at them and make your own decision.

Fescue Foot

University of Illinois veterinarians recently cautioned that ergot poisoning may cause some troubles this year. Ergot is a fungus infection of grasses in which the seed is ultimately replaced by a hard, black mass. It is the hard, black mass (seed size) that is the villain.

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Sometimes cattle grazing on fescue pastures can be affected in a manner similar to cattle suffering from ergot poisoning. The symptom most similar to ergot poisoning is lameness. The lameness is caused by a constriction of the blood vessels at body extremities which, if allowed to progress, eventually causes dead tissue and loss of feet. The tips of the ears and tails may also die and fall off. The remedy is to observe cattle often for signs of lameness and to remove them from the fescue pasture until the lameness disappears. Cattle grazing fescue this winter should be observed frequently.

HAC:dl
10/9/61

THIS WEEK...

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Clear, crisp weather, choice clean cattle and an aggressive, active auction marked the 12th Annual Feeder Cattle Sale held at the Dixon Springs Experiment Station on Thursday, October 5. Buyers paid nearly a quarter of a million dollars for some 2,000 head of feeders offered by more than 100 southern Illinois cattle producers through their Egyptian Livestock Association sale.

Choice 400-pound steers sold freely at $27 to $29. Top steers were a small pen of 300-pound Angus selling for $29.50. Choice 400-pound heifers sold at $24 to $26, with 15 head of 318-pound Herefords topping at $27.75.

Choice steers weighing 500 to 600 pounds sold at $25 to $26, with weights over 600 going at $23 to $25. Heifers over 500 pounds sold strongly at $23 to $24.

Large Numbers Move Northward

Local buyers picked up fewer cattle than in the past, and several big loads moved into the northern Illinois feeding areas. Stanley E. Cox of Rockford trucked out 236 head. Kalaher and Seymour of Carlinville bought 104 head, and Tucker of Minonk took home 89 head.

It Was a Good Sale

Sellers were pleased with the strong prices, and buyers were able to fill their feeding lots with fresh, clean, well-sorted, evenly lotted groups. With both buyers and sellers pleased, this was a good sale.

The Egyptian Livestock Association has continually insisted on better cattle in each of the past twelve years and has closely screened quality, freshness and health of consignments. As Bob Webb, Station superintendent, once put it, "Southern Illinois is a cattle-growing country and a growing cattle country." The Egyptian Livestock Association is striving to live by these words.

HAC:vl
10/12/61

THIS WEEK...

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in Southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Wormy cattle make poor use of feed. Samplings from Station calves weaned in past years have shown that internal parasites are a greater problem than we once thought. Also, samplings from calves sold through the annual feeder calf sale have indicated a rather high level of internal parasites.

Station Calves Wormed

So, instead of feeding a high population of worms this winter, Station researchers have wormed all the weaned calves. Dr. Mansfield Station veterinarian, prefers to use a drench of phenothiazine as a wormer. By drenching, Mansfield can be sure that each and every animal receives treatment in the necessary amount. Phenothiazine powder can be mixed with the feed and fed; this method would also be effective if all animals ate equally well.

Mansfield drenches each calf, using 10 grams of phenothiazine for every 100 pounds of weight. In no case does he give more than 60 grams to one calf. A practical recommendation for on-the-farm use is 1/2 ounce of phenothiazine for every 100 pounds, but not to exceed two ounces to any one animal.

Fresh Tomatoes

Fresh winter tomatoes are now being harvested at the Station. Bill Courter, extension horticulturist, has 11 varieties growing in a plastic greenhouse to compare yields from leaf-mold-resistant and non-resistant varieties.

Bill tells us that the fall crops will soon be finished. Early in January the spring crop will go in. Greenhouse tomatoes are a valuable crop, being worth

-more-

25 to 30 cents a pound. Fall production should run six to eight pounds per plant, with 12 to 18 pounds per plant produced from the spring crop.

Besides leaf mold, mosaic virus diseases are common in commercial production of greenhouse tomatoes. Losses can be large. But, with a careful sanitation program, Courter reports no evidence of virus diseases in the tomatoes on the Station.

HAC:ml
12/13/61

THIS WEEK...

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

The way it looks from here, one of the best new year's resolutions a farmer can make is to have his soil tested right now. Soil tests form the basis for planning an intelligent soil fertility program. Limestone and fertilizers are still among the top money-making investments on the farm today.

Timely Flock Management

Frank Hinds, sheep researcher, says that whether sheep will be a profitable business on the farm next year will depend largely on the treatment the ewe flock is now receiving. First, if the ewes are a month or more away from lambing, drench for worms, using phenothiazine. Second, start feeding grain at the rate of 3/4 to 1 pound daily four to six weeks before lambing. Another practice that will save lambs is to crutch the ewes. Crutching is shearing the fleece away from the udder, between the hind legs and upward toward the dock area. Also, be prepared to house and isolate lambing ewes from the rest of the flock. Many lambs can be saved by the simple practice of penning new lambs and their mothers in for a day or two.

Runoff From Corn Land

Minimum tillage, a system of plowing followed by wheel-track planting of corn, in general will reduce runoff and soil losses if the rows are spaced 40 inches apart. However, with a 20-inch row spacing wheel-track planting leaves only a relatively small area that isn't packed by wheels. Lee Gard, soil and water researcher, reports rather high runoff early in the season from plots wheel-track-planted in 20-inch rows. This disadvantage may be overcome later in the winter because of the heavier mulch from more stalks on the 20-inch rows.

HAC:dl
12/21/61

THIS WEEK...

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

The old year, 1960, seemed to pass rapidly but, even so, a lot of things happened and many changes occurred at the Dixon Springs Experiment Station. We might quickly identify it as the year of horses and horticulture.

The quarter-horse herd had been moved the year before from Urbana to Dixon Springs, but 1960 marked the first foalings on the Station. In like manner, the year before last the Department of Horticulture did some work on the Station, but in 1960 Bill Courter, extension horticulturist, became permanently stationed here and proceeded to produce strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and many other small fruits and vegetables in superabundance.

Experimental work in pellet feeding has been carried on since the early part of the decade, but, again, 1960 marked the completion of a feed handling and processing plant, including an operational pellet mill. This year we have been able to compound a wide variety of pelleted rations, including even corn stover pellets and pellets in a variety of shades, shapes and sizes.

Of course, we'll all remember 1960 as the year of the big snow, when well over a foot fell during the last week in February. It continued to fall during the next four weeks, and at no time during this period did we have less than a foot of snow on the ground. Oakley Robinson, cattle herdsman, will probably remember best of all, because it came in the midst of calving season and the cow herd's fescue pastures were safely buried.

Then, 1960 was a good growing season too. Moisture conditions were excellent for producing pasture and grain. The fall was open and dry, making a relatively easy harvest. Corn on strong standing stalks yielded well into the 80- to 100-bushel range.

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Added to our staff in July was an area resources development adviser, Les Broom. Also, late last summer the Dick Andrews family and house trailer took up residence on the Station. Dick is our trapper, and every day he brings in a wide variety of animals--coons, skunks, rats, mice, foxes, possums--in fact, anything he can get in his traps. The reason behind all this trapping is to determine the prevalence of leptospirosis in the wild-animal population.

During the past year, Station personnel have been called upon to help with more and more southern Illinois beef herds entering the performance testing program.

You can learn about the many other things that happened during 1960 on Station tours and during cattle week and sheep day. Cattle week at the Station this year will be the week of February 6. Sheep day will be February 15.

HAC:rl
1/4/61

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE
AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF ILLINOIS

College of Agriculture, University of Illinois
United States Department of Agriculture,
Cooperating

Extension Service in Agriculture
and Home Economics
Urbana, Illinois

January 12, 1961

To All Farm Advisers:

Attached is a copy of the program for the Dixon Springs Experiment Station Cattle Feeders' Days, February 6-10. As you may already know, Monday, February 6, is reserved for all counties other than those in District 5. If you plan to bring a group on Monday, please notify Jack Lewis so he can order lunches.

The dates of February 7-10 are reserved for counties in District 5. It is not necessary for these county farm advisers to notify Lewis of the number in their group.

We hope to see you there.

Sincerely yours,

G. R. Carlisle

G. R. Carlisle
Livestock Extension
Specialist

GRC:mfb

DIXON SPRINGS CATTLE FEEDERS' DAYS

February 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 1961

MORNING SESSION

9:30	Welcome.	J. M. Lewis Chairman
9:45	Cobalt Bullets, Tranquilizer Implants, Hay and Wafers, Protein-Grain Comparison Levels for Fattening Heifers. . . .	G. F. Cmarik
10:05	Silage Feeding - Grain Sorghum and Corn, Pasture Supplements - Protein and Hay.	G. E. McKibben
10:25	Lepto, Anaplasmosis, Shipping Fever, and Parasite Control, i.e., Systemics.	M. E. Mansfield

I N T E R M I S S I O N

10:45

11:00	Where We Are on Pelleted Feeds - Summary	H. A. Cate
11:20	Reports From U. of I. and Other Stations, Crossbreeding - Time of Calving, Better Bulls.	G. R. Carlisle Animal Science Department
11:40	Question Period	
12:00	Lunch (will be provided at modest cost)	

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:00	Tour	F. C. Hinds Chairman
	Feeder Grades and Current Markets.	Ed Lamb Producers Livestock Marketing Association
	Current Tests	
	Time of Calving	
3:00	Tour Ends	

JML:mfb
1/11/61

THIS WEEK. . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

On several occasions in this column we have mentioned that grain sorghums compare favorably with corn in both grain and silage yields. Therefore, more and more work has been done with sorghums at Dixon Springs.

This year George McKibben, Station agronomist, carried on an interesting cultural study involving row spacing of Texas 610 grain sorghum. George drilled the sorghum in rows of 40, 30, 20 and 10 inches with about two inches between plants in the row.

Twenty-Inch Rows Best

Grain yields were best from the 20-inch rows, being nearly double those from the conventional 40-inch rows. Yields for the various row spacings were as follows: 40 inches, 66 bushels; 30 inches, 76 bushels; 20 inches, 126 bushels; and 10 inches, 80 bushels.

These yields were obtained without cultivation. However, 2,4-D herbicide was applied when the sorghum was about four inches tall. Conceivably, cultivation would have increased grain yields on the wider spacings. With the closer spacings, 20- and 10-inch rows, weeds were well controlled. The herbicide plus shading of the sorghum plants resulted in a nearly weed-free crop.

Silage Yields

Silage yields did not vary greatly between the 30-, 20- and 10-inch spacings, ranging from 16 1/2 to 17 1/2 tons an acre. The silage yield for the sorghum in 40-inch rows was 12 1/2 tons.

Higher Nitrogen Applied to Close Rows

In this experiment the closer spaced rows received greater amounts of nitrogen fertilizer. The nitrogen was applied in August, and row applications were

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the same for all spacings; therefore, on a per-acre basis, the 20-inch rows received twice as much nitrogen. Other fertility treatments were equal on the acre basis.

The Best for the New Year

The Dixon Springs staff takes this opportunity to wish you the very best for the New Year. We hope to be of increasing service to you, and we invite your continued interest in and use of information from your Experiment Station.

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HAC:mfb
1/12/61

THIS WEEK....

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Dick Andrews, a native of Nebraska, schooled in Iowa and now at Dixon Springs, has picked up the name of "Trapper Dick," because that's actually what he does--trap. A few of the animals Dick has caught in his traps are coon, possum, weasel, mink, skunk, ground hog, fox, squirrel, rabbit, mice, rats and moles. He has also caught turtles, snakes, lizards and salamanders.

Well, now, trapping seems like an unusual activity on the Station--a Station primarily concerned with pasture and livestock production. But the trapping operation does tie in with livestock health. You see, Dick is working under Dr. Ferris, College of Veterinary Medicine, in an effort to learn the incidence in wildlife of a disease called leptospirosis.

What Is Lepto?

Leptospirosis--"lepto" for short--is of real economic importance to Illinois livestock producers, especially cattle men. Many Illinois cattle are infected. Among the symptoms are abortions, elevated temperatures and bloody urine. Infected cattle lose weight and go off feed. The disease affects all age groups of cattle, calves, yearlings, cows, steers and bulls.

Disease Incidence Low in Trapped Animals

From each animal trapped, blood, kidney, spleen, liver and urine samples are obtained for laboratory analysis to determine whether or not the disease organism is present. Dick reports that, of the hundreds of animals caught, very few isolations of the disease have been made.

Grant of Funds

This work that Dr. Ferris and Dick are engaged in is made possible through a grant of funds from the National Institute of Health. And the reason, as Dick

pointed out, for carrying on the study at Dixon Springs is not that leptospirosis is any more prevalent in southern Illinois than in other parts of the state, but that here at the Station large numbers of cattle are subject to regular and frequent health checks. Frequent blood sampling of cows in the herd makes it possible to determine approximately when and where an outbreak of "lepto" occurred. Knowing this, Dick can then limit his trapping operations to that area. Well, that makes good sense; it increases the possibility of appraising the involvement or noninvolvement of wildlife in transmitting the disease. From time to time we'll try to keep you posted on the findings of Dick the Trapper.

Cattle Days and Sheep Days

Coming events on the Station are Cattle Days during the week of February 6 and Sheep Day on February 15. For Cattle Days, different counties are scheduled on each of the five days as follows: February 6 - open to all counties not otherwise scheduled; February 7 - Massac, Pope, Hardin, Saline, Gallatin and Williamson; February 8 - Johnson, Pulaski, Alexander, Jackson, Perry and Wabash; February 9 - Randolph, Franklin, Washington, Edwards and Union; and February 10 - Jefferson, Wayne, Hamilton and White.

HAC:wl
1/18/61

THIS WEEK....

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Recently, Bob Nelson, Extension Forester, reminded us that we should take a real good look at our forest product supply. Each of us uses 66 cubic feet of wood in a year's time and 2 1/2 acres of timberland are required to satisfy this need. Today, in the United States there are three acres of forest land for each man, woman, and child. By the year 2000, it is estimated that there will be only two acres per capita. Based on present needs and present timber growth rates, in the year 2000 we'll be forced to do without some of the wood products to which we have grown accustomed.

In forestry, unlike grain crops or livestock products, we cannot plan a year or two ahead, but need to look into the next 25 years. In other words, we can't plant trees today and harvest this year or next year or even in the next decade.

Nelson reminded us that privately owned farm woodlands in southern Illinois represent one acre in each seven. Bob stated that one acre in seven is a whale of a chunk of land to walk around and forget each year in our farm business. This 15% of our farm acres could be improved and contribute to farm income.

First and foremost, we can establish some improved pastures to get the cows out of the woods. STOP GRAZING WOODLANDS. Secondly, we can practice IMPROVEMENT CUTTING. This involves selling out culls or girdling the weed trees. Thirdly, provide FIRE PROTECTION.

Nelson advises that we need to use a common sense method of harvesting. Wasteful harvesting, so commonly used, is that of selling in one operation all the trees in the stand, good, bad, mature and immature trees. Bob says that the cattleman doesn't sell all his cattle at one time, the thin, the young, the old, the fat,

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the culls and the works. Rather the cattleman sells his culls and those ready and mature for market. We need to apply the same marketing approach to our timber stands.

Forestry research is one of the enterprises of the University of Illinois, Dixon Springs Station. For more information, contact Bob Nelson, Extension Forester, Dixon Springs Experiment Station, Robbs, Illinois.

HAC:dl
6-22-61

THIS WEEK. . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois, Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois prepared by H. A. Cate)

If you did not plow down nitrogen before planting your corn crop, you may consider yourself fortunate. You may consider yourself fortunate not because you missed out on the nitrogen fertilizer, but because now you can spend your nitrogen dollar for sidedress nitrogen.

Sidedress Nitrogen More Effective

In many years of study of plow down and sidedress nitrogen here on the Dixon Springs Station, it has been demonstrated, time after time, that one-half to two-thirds the amount of nitrogen applied as sidedress will produce equally high yields of corn. On corn following fescue sod with 167 pounds of nitrogen plowed down, the corn yielded 84 bushels; with 100 pounds of sidedress nitrogen, yields were 81 bushels. On corn following corn, yields for both plow down and sidedress nitrogen were 72 bushels.

Pasture Tips

Now that the corn's all planted and the hay all made pastures can receive some attention. Earlier pasture attention was needed but then it's never too late. In fact we've been known to clip pastures at Christmas time, primarily to control brush.

But, now is a better time than Christmas to clip pastures for weed control and to even up the growth. If you plan to graze a pasture next winter, you'll save on beef cow wintering costs if you roll the pasture clippings up and leave them where they lay. The bales on each acre should be worth 30 days wintering for two beef cows.

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Horticulture Field Event

On Thursday, July 6, Bill Courter plans a twilight field meeting at the small fruit and vegetable plots at Dixon Springs. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

You'll see tests with tomato varieties, tomato culture, squash, strawberry, and blueberry varieties. It is planned to have a mulch planting demonstration with a planter designed to lay and plant through plastic and paper mulch. Also you'll visit the plastic greenhouse.

HAC:cm
6/29/61

THIS WEEK....

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Close row planting of grain sorghums and dwarf corn looked good here on the Station last year. George McKibben, crops and soils researcher, reported yield increases of more than 80 percent for 20-inch rows over the conventional 40-inch row spacing.

In 40-inch rows, grain sorghum yielded 66 bushels, and in the 20-inch spacing, 125 bushels. Dwarf corn in 40-inch rows yielded 70 bushels with an increase to 127 bushels for the 20-inch spacing. The yields of both sorghum and dwarf corn were intermediate for the 30-inch spacing.

Close row planting of regular height corn here on the Station has not looked as favorable with little increase in yield and a big increase in lodging and down corn. On the other hand, the shorter growing sorghums and dwarf corn resist the lodging hazard.

Livestock Health - Losses High

Livestock losses in the United States cost us some 2 1/2 billion dollars. Put into terms that we can easier comprehend, this loss represents 6 percent of our total livestock investment or 15 percent of total marketable livestock produced.

Dr. Mansfield, Station veterinarian, says that we may better combat this huge loss through sound preventive disease control than through treatment of disease. Preventive medicine involves management control such as sanitation, caution in purchasing or moving diseased animals onto farms, as well as good nutrition. Treatment of disease on the other hand, though necessary, is a little like locking the barn door after the horse has been stolen. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on preventive medicine.

Cattle Country

Southern Illinois has relatively high rainfall, 45 inches annually, to make pastures boom. The area is favored with mild winters--year round grazing--and land prices are reasonable. In fact, the cost of improved land needed to carry one beef cow the year round and raise a calf to weaning will be no more than most range areas and is about half that of renowned cattle areas, reputation cattle country. Land area needed here to carry a beef cow the year round will run from three to four acres. This means a land investment cost of $300 to $400 per cow. This is not at all out of line for cattle range costs.

HAC:bm
7/5/61

THIS WEEK. . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

July has been a month of low rainfall here on the Station, but it has also been cool. Had it been hot, dry and windy, moisture for pastures and crops could be critical by this time. Nonetheless, Lee Gard, soils and water researcher, started the irrigation pump this week, first irrigating five acres of experimental pasture and now experimental corn plots.

Irrigation of Corn Pays

Lee Gard has concluded from moisture studies and rainfall records during the past 21 years that in most years corn yields on silt-pan soils will be reduced by lack of moisture. Drastic yield reductions occur in more than half of the years. Here on the Station, in three out of four years, applying four inches of water in two applications, with about ten days between irrigations, has produced yield increases.

Irrigation of pastures have produced plenty of forage, but not enough added gain on beef steers to pay the cost of irrigating. Present studies are being aimed at pasture supplementation to improve animal gains.

For further information on both pasture and corn irrigation, write to us here at the Station for University Bulletin 640 and for a reprint of an article entitled "Moisture Loss and Corn Yields on a Silt-Pan Soil as Affected by Three Levels of Water Supply."

Ram Sale

Twenty-one rams were sold at auction on Thursday, July 13, at the Station. Eight Suffolk rams sold for an average of $60.93. Eight Hampshires averaged $43.75, and five Targhees averaged $40.50.

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Tom Saxe from Thompsonville, in Franklin County, paid the top price of $105.00 for a four-year-old, deep-bodied, broad-rumped Suffolk ram.

Excellent New Pasture

Station crops and soils man George McKibben is getting so expert that he rarely fails to establish excellent pastures. This year is no exception. A trip through the Elam bottom and up the hill through the Elam upland, past the pond and on up to the sheep barns, is proof-positive of what George is able to do with fertility and proven seeding practices.

About ten years ago this same Elam upland tract was a wilderness of sassafras, persimmon, brush and weeds. Brush and trees, arm and leg size in diameter, were common. Many who saw the reclamation of this area ten years ago questioned the economic soundness of spending $40 to $50 an acre to clear, fertilize and seed. However, today after two rotations this former wilderness has a heavy clover, alfalfa and grass seeding with the potential of producing 300 to 500 pounds of beef or lamb gain per acre.

HAC:mfb
7/20/61

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Some time ago we reported that grain sorghum and dwarf corn yields were increased by about 80 percent by closing up the rows from 40-inch to 20-inch spacing. Last year regular corn yields were increased by nearly 40 percent by the same close-row planting. On plots taken out of meadow and planted to corn, the 20-inch row spacing planted at the rate of 24,000 plants per acre yielded 139 bushels, while the conventional 40-inch spacing at 16,000 plants acre yielded 102 bushels.

Last summer was a nearly perfect corn-growing year. Moisture was adequate and the close-row plantings with high plant populations looked good. During the summer of 1959, there was little or no increase in yield for the close-row planting, and the level of down corn was high, especially in the higher plant populations.

Cobalt

Evidently the fields, forages and pastures growing on the Station are adequate in colbalt, a trace mineral needed in very small amounts by livestock. Normally, cobalt levels are considered adequate if the ration contains one part in ten million.

Last summer cobalt bullets, were placed in the stomachs of lambs being fed on pasture and in drylot, grazing yearling ewes and grazing yearling cattle. The cobalt bullet is slowly soluble. In no instance did the treatment increase gains or performance over those of untreated control animals.

Another Use for Pellet Mill

The Station has no grain-drying equipment as such, but it does have a pellet mill and cooler. This equipment was used to good advantage this year in handling grain, both wheat and oats, harvested with high moisture. Without drying,

-more-

much of the oats and wheat harvested this year would have heated and spoiled in storage. But the grain was not too wet to grind and pellet and then cool through the pellet mill cooler. So today we have stored pelleted wheat, oats and mixtures of oats and wheat in the overhead bins at the feed processing plant to use in our winter feeding programs.

HAC:wl
8/10/61

THIS WEEK. . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Plowing for Fall Seedings

Grasses and weeds use an abundance of moisture during the summer. Plowing now will help keep seedbeds moist for late summer and early fall pasture seedings. Also, early plowing allows time for liming and fertilizing well ahead of seeding time. Some of this early plowing is being done now on the Station.

Liver Sampling

Vitamin A nutrition for livestock is receiving increasing attention. Here on the Station liver samples are being taken from yearling cattle to determine the amount of vitamin A storage. Liver samples taken in April and again this week will help us measure the vitamin A efficiency of wintering rations as well as of different kinds of pastures, some of which are supplemented with vitamin A.

Japanese Visitors

Many of the world's people do not enjoy the luxury of eating meat and dairy products. Among them are the people of Japan. In Japan, food--rice and cereal grains--is produced for direct human consumption. However, with increased incomes the people are demanding more and more animal foods.

To learn methods of producing and using crops for livestock, eleven Japanese agricultural leaders are spending two months in the United States. This week the group spent two days at the Dixon Springs Experiment Station. While here they were primarily interested in pasture and crop rotations, methods of feeding, and grazing management for highest beef gain.

From the Foresters

Loblolly pine grows faster than shortleaf pine. But shortleaf pine weighs about 100 pounds more per cord. However, Bob Gilmore, forestry researcher, says the loblolly will produce more total pulp. Both loblolly and shortleaf pine are well adapted to southern Illinois soil and climate.

HAC:mfb
8/3/61

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

A group of farm men and women and townspeople from the southern eight counties in Illinois are planning a trip to Morgantown, Kentucky, on August 29 and 30. Purpose of the trip, planned by Les Broom, Area Resource Development Adviser, is to acquaint Illinois people with the progress and methods used by Kentucky people in their rural development program during the past five years.

Going on the two-day tour will be a farm man and woman, a city man and woman, and the farm adviser and home adviser from each of the eight counties. Broom says the Kentucky rural developers have been working on a two-phase program on a countywide as well as community basis.

Increased Interest in Beef Testing

Last year the Station staff assisted about a dozen southern Illinois farmers in production-testing of their beef herds. About one-third of the herds on test were from Pulaski-Alexander counties. This year the Pulaski-Alexander farm advisers, Stan Ceglinski and Joe Small, already have the testing program under way and two new herds have been added.

In the test, each calf is weighed and graded on a feeder grade basis. Calves vary in age and sex. Calf weights are adjusted for age, sex, and age of dam so that all weights are standardized for comparison of the cows' production.

Calves from several herds have averaged over two pounds of daily gain from birth to weaning; those from some other herds have not gained this well. Do you know how much your calves are gaining?

If you are interested in enrolling in the Illinois testing program, see your farm adviser for details. Each cow and calf must be identified and the birth date of each calf recorded. If you have this information, you're ready to go.

HAC:mfb
8/17/61

THIS WEEK. . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Corn silage is a good winter feed for beef calves. Last winter a full feed of corn silage with soybean oil meal to provide the protein and a free-choice offering of minerals produced average daily gains of more than 1 2/3 pounds on beef calves. This gain was made on silage from well-eared corn.

Drilled Corn Disappointing

However, not all corn silage does as well. Corn produced from drilling with a grain drill in 7-inch rows and heavily nitrated produced less than a pound of daily gain on similar calves. Yields of silage from the drilled corn were also less than yields from corn planted in the usual way--40-inch rows at 16,000 plants per acre.

Again this year on the Station corn was put in with a wheat drill and feeding trials similar to those of last year will again be conducted. This past week the drilled corn was mowed, wilted and then chopped and stored for silage. Again this year, as last, yields of the drilled corn were disappointing. This corn has no grain, only stalk and leaves. Considering both yield of silage and gains, the old way looks better.

Feeding Cow Herd Now for Next Winter

Christmas dinner for the beef cow herd is now being placed on the table. There are several ways we could do this job: (1) We could nitrate some fescue pasture for winter grazing. (2) We could roll up some pasture clippings for the dry cows to eat next winter. Or (3) we could do as we are now doing on the Big Wells tract.

On the Big Wells, where we want to winter a cow herd, the pasture has been completely used this summer. There are no pasture clippings to roll up into bales

-more-

to leave on the field. But the other day I saw a truck-load of round bales, pasture clippings from another area, being unloaded on the Big Wells tract. So today the table is well laid for the beef herd's Christmas dinner.

Mark This Date

Thursday, October 5, is the day for the Egyptian Livestock Association's Annual Feeder Calf Sale on the Dixon Springs Experiment Station. This year's consignment of calves should be no exception to the quality, farm-fresh cattle offered in previous years.

HAC:ml
8/23/61

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

The most successful and most productive pastures are established early. Next to proper fertility treatment and the seeding of adapted grasses and legumes, time of seeding is the most important ingredient in pasture-making. For top success in southern Illinois, seed before September 15.

Complete Fall Seeding

With early fall seeding, the complete pasture mixture, grasses, alfalfa and clovers, may be planted. These early seedings are off to a good start and ready to graze or to cut for hay the following spring.

A common mixture to be used for summer-long grazing on the Dixon Springs Station will consist of six pounds of orchard grass, eight pounds of alfalfa, three pounds of red clover and one pound of ladino clover. The orchard grass is drilled through a grain drill, and the alfalfa and clovers are seeded from the "grass" seed attachment in a band over the fertilizer. If the land is rough and rolling, drilling the small grain will afford more winter cover. In southern Illinois, barley is one of our better companion small-grain crops.

Later Seedings

If the seeding is done after September 15, we would reccmmend drilling a small-grain nurse crop with the grass. For later seedings we would consider it wiser to leave the legumes in the bag to be broadcast on the small grain and grass the following spring. But again it is hard to beat the early seeding dates.

Herd Health

Doctor Mansfield, Station veterinarian, has warned cattlemen that now is the expected season for anaplasmosis infection. Anaplasmosis is an infectious disease

-more-

caused by tiny parasites that enter the animal's body and destroy the red blood cells.

Early detection of the disease permits treatment that will reduce death losses--and losses from anaplasmosis can run high!! Daily inspection will detect the cow or cows lagging behing during movement of the herd. This lagging cow may be suffering from anemia caused by the disease and will show paleness or jaundiced condition of the skin, teats and visible membranes about the eye, nose and mouth.

Webb Will Be Back

Bob Webb, Station superintendent, has written that he and his family expect to return to Dixon Springs about mid-November. For the past two years Webb has been advising and helping the people of India develop an agricultural experiment station.

HAC:mfb
9/7/61

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

In addition to following other sound management practices, people who make money from sheep are on hand at lambing time to assist when needed. However, ewes are not very considerate of people. They lamb in their own good time, rain or shine, night or day, this week or next. Often lambing extends over a period of several weeks, and the sheep farmer may be in for many sleepless nights.

Frank Hinds, sheep researcher, and Gene Lauderdale, Station sheep herdsman, theorize that the biggest cause of a long lambing season is a long breeding season. Ewes breed in their own good time, and no sooner. It's their nature to breed only once in a 14- to 16-day period, and then they may not conceive on the first breeding. When ewes in the flock breed and conceive on different days and then vary a few days from the norm of 146 days for carrying their lambs, the lambing season is likely to spread over several weeks.

In attacking this problem, Hinds and Lauderdale are recycling the heat or breeding periods so that ewes in the experimental group will start to lamb at about the same time. That is, at the word "go" the hormones in all ewes will start to flow at about the same time,causing the egg to mature and the ewes to come into heat at about the same time--or at least within three to five days instead of the usual 14 to 16 days.

To recycle the breeding period, progesterone is being fed to the ewes for 14 days, which include one complete heat cycle. As long as the progesterone is fed, all normal reproductive processes cease. Progesterone is the hormone secreted naturally in pregnant animals that stops heat and egg development.

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Hinds reports that last year the recycling achieved by feeding progesterone brought 86 percent of the ewes into lambing within nine days. Hinds also points out other interesting and profitable applications of the recycling process: With lambs of about the same age, management would be simplified. With breeding dates close together (synchronized breeding dates is another way of saying it), artificial insemination would be easier to handle. With artificial breeding, more lambs from outstanding rams would be possible, and people who make money from sheep could make more money.

HAC:vl
9/14/61

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

In performance testing of beef cow herds in southern Illinois, it is interesting to note the differences in average weaning weights from farm to farm. If we were asked to pick the one single reason (and there are several) for these differences, we would be forced to answer pastures--both amount and kind of pasture. In general, the heaviest calves are produced on farms with excess forage and on farms with fertilized pastures of grass and legume mixtures.

Individual Cows Important

But even with plenty of top pastures, the individual cows in a herd vary greatly in production. It is not uncommon to find cows weaning 330-pound calves and cows weaning 500-pound calves in the same herd and with nearly the same birth dates for the calves. Needless to say, it is important to know these cows in order to cull and select breeding stock intelligently. A difference of 170 pounds in weaning weights is today worth over $40. And if you think the heavier calf is necessarily lower in quality and will bring less on the market, we say you have another think coming; at least you had better take another look. Find out from your farm adviser when calves in your county will be weighed and graded, and look at them and make your own decision.

Fescue Foot

University of Illinois veterinarians recently cautioned that ergot poisoning may cause some troubles this year. Ergot is a fungus infection of grasses in which the seed is ultimately replaced by a hard, black mass. It is the hard, black mass (seed size) that is the villain.

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Sometimes cattle grazing on fescue pastures can be affected in a manner similar to cattle suffering from ergot poisoning. The symptom most similar to ergot poisoning is lameness. The lameness is caused by a constriction of the blood vessels at body extremities which, if allowed to progress, eventually causes dead tissue and loss of feet. The tips of the ears and tails may also die and fall off. The remedy is to observe cattle often for signs of lameness and to remove them from the fescue pasture until the lameness disappears. Cattle grazing fescue this winter should be observed frequently.

HAC:dl
10/9/61

THIS WEEK...

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Clear, crisp weather, choice clean cattle and an aggressive, active auction marked the 12th Annual Feeder Cattle Sale held at the Dixon Springs Experiment Station on Thursday, October 5. Buyers paid nearly a quarter of a million dollars for some 2,000 head of feeders offered by more than 100 southern Illinois cattle producers through their Egyptian Livestock Association sale.

Choice 400-pound steers sold freely at $27 to $29. Top steers were a small pen of 300-pound Angus selling for $29.50. Choice 400-pound heifers sold at $24 to $26, with 15 head of 318-pound Herefords topping at $27.75.

Choice steers weighing 500 to 600 pounds sold at $25 to $26, with weights over 600 going at $23 to $25. Heifers over 500 pounds sold strongly at $23 to $24.

Large Numbers Move Northward

Local buyers picked up fewer cattle than in the past, and several big loads moved into the northern Illinois feeding areas. Stanley E. Cox of Rockford trucked out 236 head. Kalaher and Seymour of Carlinville bought 104 head, and Tucker of Minonk took home 89 head.

It Was a Good Sale

Sellers were pleased with the strong prices, and buyers were able to fill their feeding lots with fresh, clean, well-sorted, evenly lotted groups. With both buyers and sellers pleased, this was a good sale.

The Egyptian Livestock Association has continually insisted on better cattle in each of the past twelve years and has closely screened quality, freshness and health of consignments. As Bob Webb, Station superintendent, once put it, "Southern Illinois is a cattle-growing country and a growing cattle country." The Egyptian Livestock Association is striving to live by these words.

HAC:vl
10/12/61

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in Southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Wormy cattle make poor use of feed. Samplings from Station calves weaned in past years have shown that internal parasites are a greater problem than we once thought. Also, samplings from calves sold through the annual feeder calf sale have indicated a rather high level of internal parasites.

Station Calves Wormed

So, instead of feeding a high population of worms this winter, Station researchers have wormed all the weaned calves. Dr. Mansfield Station veterinarian, prefers to use a drench of phenothiazine as a wormer. By drenching, Mansfield can be sure that each and every animal receives treatment in the necessary amount. Phenothiazine powder can be mixed with the feed and fed; this method would also be effective if all animals ate equally well.

Mansfield drenches each calf, using 10 grams of phenothiazine for every 100 pounds of weight. In no case does he give more than 60 grams to one calf. A practical recommendation for on-the-farm use is 1/2 ounce of phenothiazine for every 100 pounds, but not to exceed two ounces to any one animal.

Fresh Tomatoes

Fresh winter tomatoes are now being harvested at the Station. Bill Courter, extension horticulturist, has 11 varieties growing in a plastic greenhouse to compare yields from leaf-mold-resistant and non-resistant varieties.

Bill tells us that the fall crops will soon be finished. Early in January the spring crop will go in. Greenhouse tomatoes are a valuable crop, being worth

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25 to 30 cents a pound. Fall production should run six to eight pounds per plant, with 12 to 18 pounds per plant produced from the spring crop.

Besides leaf mold, mosaic virus diseases are common in commercial production of greenhouse tomatoes. Losses can be large. But, with a careful sanitation program, Courter reports no evidence of virus diseases in the tomatoes on the Station.

HAC:ml
12/13/61

T H I S W E E K . . .

A T D I X O N S P R I N G S

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

The way it looks from here, one of the best new year's resolutions a farmer can make is to have his soil tested right now. Soil tests form the basis for planning an intelligent soil fertility program. Limestone and fertilizers are still among the top money-making investments on the farm today.

Timely Flock Management

Frank Hinds, sheep researcher, says that whether sheep will be a profitable business on the farm next year will depend largely on the treatment the ewe flock is now receiving. First, if the ewes are a month or more away from lambing, drench for worms, using phenothiazine. Second, start feeding grain at the rate of 3/4 to 1 pound daily four to six weeks before lambing. Another practice that will save lambs is to crutch the ewes. Crutching is shearing the fleece away from the udder, between the hind legs and upward toward the dock area. Also, be prepared to house and isolate lambing ewes from the rest of the flock. Many lambs can be saved by the simple practice of penning new lambs and their mothers in for a day or two.

Runoff From Corn Land

Minimum tillage, a system of plowing followed by wheel-track planting of corn, in general will reduce runoff and soil losses if the rows are spaced 40 inches apart. However, with a 20-inch row spacing wheel-track planting leaves only a relatively small area that isn't packed by wheels. Lee Gard, soil and water researcher, reports rather high runoff early in the season from plots wheel-track-planted in 20-inch rows. This disadvantage may be overcome later in the winter because of the heavier mulch from more stalks on the 20-inch rows.

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12/21/61

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

ILLINOIS FARM REVIEW, 1961: BETTER THAN AVERAGE

URBANA, ILLINOIS JAN. 3, 1962

The year 1961 was better than average for Illinois farmers. There were several reasons: First and foremost, crop yields were high. Second, the price of hogs was good. Third, the price of soybeans was better than in the previous year. Fourth, government payments were increased.

WHEAT, the first crop harvested, produced an average acre yield of 36 bushels. This average was 34 percent above 1960 and 45 percent above the 10-year 1950-59 average.

OATS in Illinois produced 56 bushels an acre, which was 8 percent more than the year before and 29 percent over the 10-year average.

SOYBEANS, too, produced good yields, averaging 28 1/2 bushels an acre. This yield was 10 percent better than in 1960 and up 16 percent from the 10-year average.

CORN, still by far the most important crop in Illinois, also produced outstanding yields in 1961. The average yield per acre was 77 bushels, 13 percent more than in 1960 and 30 percent above the 10-year average.

In comparison with other states, Illinois crop yields were unusually high in 1961. Illinois ranked first in corn yields, except for two western states where acreage is small and is grown under irrigation.

Illinois tied with Iowa for highest soybean yield per acre. Illinois easily held its first place in total production of soybeans. Its 159 million bushels were 62 percent more than any other state produced.

Illinois tied with Michigan for top yield per acre of wheat grown without irrigation. Only one state, with a small acreage, had higher yields in 1961.

Illinois tied with Wisconsin for highest average yield of oats.

HOG PRICES were unusually good in 1961, without a single bad month. Prices for barrows and gilts at midwest terminal markets averaged about $17.20 for the year. This was about 8 percent higher than the 1960 average. The range of monthly average prices was very small--from a high of $18.33 in August to $15.97 in November.

Illinois farmers continued to increase their share of the nation's hog market in 1961. While total U. S. production of hogs was no greater in 1961 than the 10-year average, Illinois production was up 11 percent.

BEEF CATTLE feeders had varied experiences in 1961, depending mostly upon when they sold their cattle. Fat cattle sold in the first quarter generally made good profits. Those sold in May, June and July made little or no profit. Cattle sold in other months generally paid a little better. It was another good year for farmers with beef-cow herds on farms adapted to such cattle.

Illinois farm income also got a boost from the run-up of soybean prices that occurred last winter and carried through the year.

Finally, Illinois farm income was given a lift by an increase in government payments under the feed-grain and wheat programs. To a considerable extent the payments received in 1961 replaced income that would otherwise have been realized in 1962.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS JAN. 10, 1962

THE CORN SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Prices for corn were a little higher this past fall than they were a year before. There are two principal reasons: (1) The new crop is smaller, and (2) the price support level is higher.

As we look ahead, prices seem likely to work a little higher in the first half of this year, whereas they made little or no advance in 1961. Here are the details:

The 1961 crop is estimated at 3,624 million bushels, 7 percent smaller than that of 1960. The cut-back in production varied greatly in different parts of the corn belt. The cut was large in the western and eastern edges and small in the center states of Illinois and Iowa. The northern part of the corn belt actually produced more corn in 1961 than in 1960.

The price support level for the 1961 corn crop is $1.20 a bushel, up 14 cents from the $1.06 support for the 1960 crop.

Offsetting the smaller crop and higher price support level are much bigger sales of corn by the United States Department of Agriculture. Such sales during October, November and December totaled 312 million bushels, more than eight times as much as during the similar period the year before.

The USDA is pushing sales of corn in order to keep the price down and to replace cash paid to farmers under the 1961 feed-grain program. These payments amounted to around $768 million. Of this amount $360 million, or 47 percent, had been raised by the first of January by the sale of 271 million bushels of corn and 96 million bushels of sorghum grain. Still to be raised was $408 million. It is likely to be done by selling about 300 million bushels of corn and a little more than 100 million bushels of sorghum grain.

After these sales are made, the government will still sell nonstorable corn and can sell corn for export. Additional corn could be sold to raise money to pay farmers for participating in the 1962 feed-grain program.

But while the government is selling record amounts of corn, it will be taking almost as much off the market. Of their 1961 crop, farmers had more than 1,400 million bushels that were eligible for price support. Some of this corn is being fed on the farm where it was produced. Some is being sold for various reasons. But most of it will be placed under price support and turned over to the government--unless the market price rises to the support level.

The market price will act as a regulator of the amount that is put under price support. It seems likely that most farmers with eligible corn will sell it only if and when the market price rises to within a few cents of the support level. This will be a strong factor tending to raise the price of corn in the next six months.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

FARM STOCKS OF CORN DOWN ONLY ONE PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

URBANA, ILLINOIS JAN. 17, 1962

The government reports of grain stocks on farms January 1 always have some important information for farmers. The report is of special interest this year because of the feed-grain program and the soybean situation.

CORN. Farmers have about as much corn on hand now as they had a year ago. According to USDA estimates, stocks of corn on farms January 1 totaled 3,022 million bushels, only 1 percent less than the record stocks of a year ago. Of this amount Illinois farmers held 517 million bushels, again just 1 percent short of the record stocks of last year.

The last (December) estimate of the 1961 corn crop was 3,624 million bushels, only 7 percent less than was produced in 1960. Of the 1961 production, about 45 percent (1,465 million bushels) was eligible for price support. Farmers will thus be able to put more corn under price support than the government can sell.

SOYBEANS. Soybean stocks on farms January 1 totaled 263 million bushels, or 54 percent more than a year ago. Of this total, Illinois farmers held 65 million bushels, up 48 percent from last year.

The December estimate of the 1961 soybean production was 693 million bushels, or 25 percent more than was produced in 1960. All of the crop was eligible for price support. Some 71 million bushels had been placed under price support by the end of November, and large additional amounts were put under support in December and January. Deadlines for getting price support on soybeans were as follows: loans on farm-stored beans, January 15; loans on warehouse-stored beans, January 23; and purchase agreements, January 31.

Beans turned over to the government under the price-support program will be offered for sale at 16 1/2 cents a bushel over the support level. Local grain dealers will have to sell their beans in competition with the government, and they probably cannot pay farmers more than the

government price less their handling margin. Government sales will tend to hold a ceiling over prices--but will not provide a floor.

SORGHUM GRAIN. Farmers on January 1 held 151 million bushels of sorghum grain on their farms. This was 31 percent less than one year before. The big 3 states in sorghum grain are Kansas, Nebraska and Texas--the southern great plains.

Production in 1961 totaled 483 million bushels, or 22 percent less than the record crop of 1960. About 58 percent of the crop was eligible for price support.

OATS. Farm stocks of oats on January 1 were estimated at 694 million bushels, or 9 percent less than the year before. The 1961 crop was 1,013 million bushels. This was 12 percent less than the previous crop and the smallest crop since 1939. Acre yields were high, but the acreage harvested was the smallest since 1885.

BARLEY. Farm stocks of barley on January 1 were estimated at 179 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year. Production in 1961 totaled 393 million bushels, down 9 percent from the year before.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS JAN. 24, 1962

CATTLE REPORT SHOWS FAVORABLE OUTLOOK FOR BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS

The first 1962 quarterly report of cattle on feed shows a favorable prospect for both the producers and the consumers of beef.

The USDA report showed that farmers are fattening enough cattle to provide an abundance of beef for consumers, but not enough to seriously depress prices.

On January 1 farmers in 26 major feeding states were fattening 7,833,000 head of cattle and calves. This was 2 percent more than were being fattened the year before.

Prospective marketings for this first quarter are up 3 percent from the same period a year ago. Average weights per head seem likely to be about the same as they were in 1961. Market supplies of fed cattle are expected to continue to be abundant in the later quarters of this year. The reason is that the 1961 calf crop was 1 percent larger than that of the previous year, and the slaughter of calves for veal was 6 percent less.

Additional increases in beef supplies may come from the slaughter of more cows in 1962 than in 1961. The slaughter of cows was unusually small last year. Altogether, beef production is expected to be 3 or 4 percent larger this year than it was in 1961.

Population growth is following its usual trend. It is increasing about 1 2/3 percent a year. Thus the supply of beef per person for this year should at least equal the record of nearly 87 pounds available in 1961.

Most of the expected increase in market supplies of cattle should be offset by stronger consumer demand for beef. Whereas employment and consumer income were at the low part of the business cycle through most of 1961, they will be in a higher phase this year. For example, this year began with about 62 million persons working at nonfarm jobs. This was 3 percent more than a year before. At the same time, average weekly earnings of factory workers were around $96, up from $89.55 a year earlier.

While consumer buying power will be stronger than in 1961, beef will meet more competition at retail food counters. The supply of pork is expected to be up 2 to 4 percent. There is more turkey in cold storage. But the supply of broilers may not be so abundant as it was last year.

Prices of fat cattle may average nearly as high in 1962 as in 1961, but with less seasonal variation. In 1961 the average price of choice steers at Chicago was about $25 a hundred pounds.

Cattle prices followed a V-shaped pattern last year. They made their high in January, when prices for choice steers at Chicago averaged $27.42 a hundred pounds. By June the monthly average was down to $22.38. Prices then climbed to $26.13 in December.

For most of 1962 we expect prices for choice steers to hold around the $24 to $25 level.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

STOCKS OF GRAINS SHRINK--BUT NOT MUCH

URBANA, ILLINOIS JAN. 31, 1962

In this report we bring you basic facts about supplies of corn, soybeans and other grains. You may use these figures in discussing farm programs and in planning your own farm operations. This report is based on the report of U. S. grain stocks on hand January 1 as compiled and released by the United States Department of Agriculture.

CORN. Total stocks of corn on hand January 1 were listed at 4,494 million bushels, or only 4 percent less than a year earlier. Most of this reduction was the result of a decrease in stocks owned by the government. Farmers held about as much corn on January 1 of this year as they held a year before.

Disappearance of corn in the October-December quarter totaled 1,139 million bushels, or 13 percent more than in the comparable three months the year before. This high rate of disappearance (use and exports) is encouraging. However, some of it was due to heavy field losses. For the remainder of this marketing year, disappearance of corn is not expected to be much larger than it was in 1961.

SOYBEANS. Stocks of soybeans on hand on New Year's eve, were estimated at 525 million bushels, or 24 percent more than last year. Apparent disappearance of soybeans in the October-December quarter was listed at 174 million bushels, or 13 percent more than in the similar period a year earlier.

Most of the greater disappearance this year seems to be due to statistical discrepancies rather than to increased crushings and exports. Crushings were up only 3 percent and exports up only 5 percent. Since the 1961 crop was 25 percent greater than that of the year before, we do not appear likely to run short of beans.

SORGHUM GRAIN. Total stocks of sorghum grain were exactly the same on January 1 this year as they were a year before--1,156 million bushels. Disappearance during the previous quarter was figured at 170 million bushels, or about 10 percent less than 12 months earlier.

OATS. Oat bins held 973 million bushels at the first of the year. This was 10 percent less than at the first of 1961. Disappearance in the six months ended with December was estimated at 563 million bushels, or 1 percent less than in the like period a year earlier.

WHEAT. Stocks of the bread grain on hand January 1 were estimated at 2,005 million bushels, down 3 percent from the year before. Apparent disappearance for the last six months of 1961 was 644 million bushels, or 6 percent more than one year before. The actual disappearance probably was larger than the reported 644 million bushels, since the amounts used for seed, milling and exports totaled 673 million bushels. But we will still have about one year's supply of old wheat on hand next July 1.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS
FEB. 7, 1962

WILL IMPORTS DEPRESS YOUR STANDARD OF LIVING?

Congress is debating changes in tariffs and other restrictions upon imports into the United States. Every citizen is--or should be--concerned with this public problem. Many of our people are making things that are sold in competition with imported items. Everyone buys and uses things that are produced in other countries.

WHAT DO WE IMPORT? We import thousands of items and materials, ranging from abacca (fiber for rope and twine) and automobiles, to wood pulp and wool.

We import annually food and beverages valued at $3.2 billion. The big item is $1 billion worth of coffee. We also import substantial amounts of sugar, meats, fruits, vegetables, nuts, cocoa, dairy products and many other foods. Imports of other (nonfood) consumer goods amount to $2.4 billion a year. Imports of other products (mostly industrial supplies, materials and machinery) amount to over $9.0 billion annually. These include petroleum and its products, worth $1.5 billion; paper, $1.0 billion; and many other materials.

All together, in the fiscal year ending last June 30, we bought foreign products worth $14.7 billion. We bought them because some were not available from domestic sources. Others were cheaper, or better, than corresponding items produced here.

But foreign trade is not one-way traffic. Last year we exported more than we bought. Our exports were valued at $19.4 billion, or nearly one-third more than we imported.

WHAT DO WE EXPORT? In the latest fiscal year we exported farm products valued at $4.8 billion. We sold other consumer goods worth $1.3 billion. But the biggest sales to foreign countries were $6.1 billion worth of industrial materials and $6.4 billion of machinery, transportation equipment and other capital items.

WHY DO WE TRADE WITH OTHER NATIONS? We trade because it is the easiest way to get many of the things we need and want. Each nation, like each community, has certain natural and acquired advantages over its neighbors. For example, we have big advantages over Japan in

producing cotton, over Canada in producing fruits and vegetables, over England in producing tobacco and over the Netherlands in producing soybeans and corn. We have advantages in producing many industrial materials and manufactured items where we can use our natural resources and big machines.

People in other countries have some advantages over us. Some have climatic advantages favoring the production of coffee, cocoa, bananas, sugar, rubber and hemp. Others have minerals that are scarce in this country. Some countries have advantages over us in producing manufactured items requiring large amounts of labor--such as watches, cameras, dishes and toys.

We can live better and easier by producing--and exporting--the things for which we have advantages and buying from others the things they can produce more cheaply than we. If we buy less from other countries, they will be forced to buy less from us. The result will be unemployment in our most efficient industries and highly paid occupations.

Most other countries are smaller or less well developed than the United States. Therefore, they are more dependent upon foreign trade than we are. If they are restricted in their trade with us, they will be forced to trade more with, and become more dependent upon, other nations--including those not friendly to the United States. Surely, it seems to us, it will be to our advantage to reduce our tariffs and other barriers to trade with other nations.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS
FEB. 14
1962

DAIRY PRICE SUPPORTS COST $1,000,000 A DAY
OFFICIALS WANT CONTROLS TO CUT COSTS

The nation's dairy price support program is likely to be overhauled. The present one is proving to be too expensive. Costs exceed one million dollars a day--and could become much greater.

Everyone is, or should be, concerned with the dairy situation. Farmers want higher incomes. Consumers want low prices. Taxpayers want to reduce costs. Most persons have more than one interest in this problem.

The federal government operates two kinds of dairy price programs: (1) marketing orders and (2) price support purchases.

MILK MARKETING ORDERS. Milk marketing orders are now in effect in most of the nation's urban areas. They apply to "handlers"--the dairy companies that buy milk from farmers and sell bottled milk and other dairy products. These handlers are required to show how much milk they sell in fluid form and how much they use for making manufactured products--such as butter, cheese and ice cream. Minimum paying prices are established for each class of milk--one price for fluid milk and a lower price for milk used for making butter, cheese, etc. The handlers may, and sometimes do, pay more for milk than the minimum prices provided under the orders.

A few months ago milk marketing orders were widely hailed as providing a solution to the income problems of dairy farmers. Now it is more generally recognized that they provide price stabilization, but very little price support. Prices are raised and lowered in response to changes in supply and demand. Price support operations are carried out under an entirely different government program.

DAIRY PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAMS. The government supports the price of milk by purchasing butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk at stated prices. In January, for example, the government purchased 44 million pounds of butter, 20 million pounds of cheese and 47 million pounds of nonfat dry milk. These products cost 43 million dollars. They are distributed mostly to schools, needy families and foreign countries.

The dairy price support program was begun in 1933. It was tapered off during and soon after World War II. Then attempts to support prices at too-high levels brought on trouble. Farmers stepped up their production of milk. In 1953 the USDA had to buy 359 million pounds of butter, 308 million pounds of cheese and 601 million pounds of nonfat dry milk. The butter and cheese represented more than 8 percent of all milk produced that year. There was much public rebellion at the high cost of dairy price support.

The price support levels were reduced about 13 percent in 1954. This helped to check production and stimulate sales. Purchases of butter and cheese were cut in half. The support levels were reduced further in 1959. This permitted the government to cut its purchases of butter to one-third of the 1953 amount and to discontinue purchasing cheese. Milk was almost on a free market. The incomes of dairy farmers were improving.

The government then reversed its policy. Price supports were raised once in 1960 and twice in 1961. Farmers increased production of milk. Sales decreased. The government soon was back in the price support business in a big way. Costs are again running too high for long public acceptance.

Now government officials apparently want farmers to accept production controls in order to cut costs of the price support program.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

CATTLE NUMBERS REACH NEW HIGH

Consumers to Get Extra Beef Dinner

URBANA, ILLINOIS FEB. 21, 1962

Cattle numbers have reached a new record high. Consequently consumers may get an extra beef dinner or two this year. The increase in supplies will be offset by greater demand, so prices received by farmers for cattle will average about the same as in 1961.

USDA statisticians figure that farmers and ranchers had 99.5 million cattle and calves on hand January 1. This was two percent more than a year before. But total figures don't tell the whole story. We need to study the make-up of our cattle herd. We need to know how many of our cattle are beef cattle, how many steers, etc.

The number of beef cattle (cattle not being kept for milk) was estimated at 69,695,000 head. This was 3 percent more than was on hand January 1 last year.

Most of this increase was in beef cows and calves. Beef cow numbers were estimated at 28,111,000 head, or 4 percent more than a year before. In the past four years farmers and ranchers have increased their cow herds by 12 percent. Some market observers believe that they will also increase their sales of cows this fall. These increased sales are being counted on to provide most of the increase in beef that is expected this year.

Numbers of beef heifers on hand January 1 were estimated at 7,240,000, or 3 percent more than one year before. If more cows are sold for slaughter, the increase in heifers will go to replace cows in the breeding herds rather than to slaughter. (The number of heifers--weighing over 500 pounds--on feed on January 1 this year was down 6 percent from the year before.)

The number of steers on hand January 1 was estimated at 10,947,000, practically the same as a year earlier. (The number of steers--weighing over 500 pounds--on feed January 1 was reported to be 1 percent more than at the beginning of 1961.) Thus the prospect is that the market supply of fed steers will be about the same during the coming spring and summer as it was last year.

Prices of cattle may hold up better than last year because of greater consumer buying power and (possibly) less competition from broilers.

Now we get down to considering the number of calves--steers and heifers under one year of age. The USDA reported 21,698,000 head of beef calves on hand at the first of this year. This number was 5 percent more than one year before. Some of these calves will be fed out and sold in the last half of this year. Increased sales in the fall may not be matched by increases in consumer buying power. Thus prices of cattle may not average so high in the last quarter of 1962 as they did in the last quarter of 1961.

For all of 1961, prices of Choice steers at Chicago averaged $24.65 a hundred pounds. So far this year prices have averaged about $26.40, but the yearly average for 1962 seems likely to be around $24.00 or $25.00.

Looking ahead two or three years, only moderate increases in cattle marketings are in prospect. Prices seem likely to work to slightly lower levels. This outlook would be altered by a marked change in general economic conditions or by a severe drouth that forced ranchers to sell unusually large numbers of cattle.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

EXPORTS OF ILLINOIS FARM PRODUCTS EXCEED $320 MILLION A YEAR

URBANA, ILLINOIS FEB. 28, 1962

Lifting Prices Will Reduce Sales

Foreign markets are more important to Illinois farmers than to farmers of most other states. The main reason is that Illinois is the leading producer of soybeans and market corn, and large amounts of each are exported.

Of course, no one actually traces each bushel of corn and beans to see where it goes. But USDA estimates show that Illinois' share of U. S. farm exports was over $320 million in the year ending last June 30. According to the USDA figures, Illinois ranked third among the states in total value of farm exports. California and Texas were first and second, with $477 million and $447 million, respectively.

Illinois farmers are in a favored position in the export market because they have low-cost water transportation on the Illinois and Mississippi rivers and Lake Michigan and the St. Lawrence river.

Soybeans are Illinois' most important agricultural export. In the 1960-61 marketing year we, the United States, exported about 130 million bushels of soybeans, plus the oil from 68 million bushels and the meal from 25 million bushels. The leading foreign buyers for our soybeans are Japan, Germany, the Netherlands and Canada.

Soybeans are sold largely on a "cash-and-carry" basis. Our foreign customers come in, outbid domestic buyers, pay cash, load the beans on their boats and take them away. This is in sharp contrast with exports of wheat, which are heavily subsidized under our price support and foreign aid programs.

Corn exports, too, are largely "cash and carry." Only small amounts are exported under price support and foreign aid programs. In the 1960-61 marketing year, exports of corn totaled 276 million bushels. Several million more bushels of corn were exported in the form of mixed feeds and

other corn products. Leading customers for our corn are the United Kingdom (England, etc.) the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, Belgium and Germany.

Several farmers' groups and some branches of the United States Department of Agriculture are working effectively to expand the foreign markets for our soybeans, corn and other farm products. Their efforts, however, will be largely wasted if our prices are raised above competitive world levels.

Raising our prices above world levels will have another important effect--it will increase imports. For each $1.00 worth of agricultural products exported last year, our merchants bought 36 cents' worth of sugar, meats, tobacco, fruits, vegetables, oilseeds, vegetable oils, dairy products, hides and skins, wool, etc. Official records show that when our prices rise imports increase.

The point is that by raising prices we would materially reduce our sales, both abroad and at home. The loss would become progressively greater as competitive sources of supply became more productive.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS
MAR. 7
1962

THE COMMON MARKET IN EUROPE IS OUR BEST FOREIGN CUSTOMER--LET'S KEEP IT

Farmers today are concerned about many things outside the boundaries of their farms. In fact, their interests extend far outside the boundaries of the United States.

For example, we have had many questions recently about the so-called Common Market in Europe. Farmers want to know what it is, and how it might affect the export markets for their soybeans, corn and other farm products.

As used here, the word "Common" means belonging to more than one, shared by many. The Common Market in Europe includes six countries having together populations and resources about equal to those of the United States.

Formerly each of these countries was to a large extent a separate market. Each one maintained tariffs and other strong restrictions upon most products moving into it from other nations. Since each nation was only a relatively small market, most factories tended to be small. Costs and prices were high in relation to wages. More important, these nations frequently waged war on one another, with great loss of human life and property.

The official name for the Common Market group of nations is the European Economic Community, often abbreviated EEC. The organization was created by what is known as the Treaty of Rome, which was signed in 1957. The participating countries were West Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg and Italy.

Each of these countries had been defeated and occupied in World War II. Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg had formed a common market soon after the war was over. It worked so well for them that in 1962 they joined with West Germany, France and Italy to form the European Coal and Steel Community. Tariffs and other restrictions on trade in coal and steel products among the six nations were abolished. The formation of the Common Market now extends the free trade to other products.

Although these countries are abolishing trade barriers among themselves, they will keep tariffs and other restrictions against products from nonmember countries, including the United States. The Common Market countries and England, which is joining the group, are our best export market. We are therefore interested in seeing that they do not build tariff walls against our products. Our best bargaining point is to be able to offer tariff reductions on products they want to sell to us. Congress can give or withhold this bargaining power to our negotiators.

In the short run the establishing of the Common Market may make it more difficult for us to sell some of our products, especially to the Netherlands and England. But over a longer period the Common Market will make its people more prosperous, and therefore better customers for us.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

THE COMMON MARKET IS BIG CASH BUYER OF FARM PRODUCTS

URBANA, ILLINOIS MARCH 14, 1962

Future Sales Will Depend Upon Our Willingness to Trade

Farmers have asked for more information about the group of nations in Europe that have joined together to form what we call the Common Market. Farmers ask what these countries buy from us now and what they are likely to buy from us in future years.

The Common Market group includes six regular members--West Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Italy. Greece is an associate member. Several other countries, notably England, may join the group.

The object of the organization is to improve economic conditions in the member countries. This is being done by eliminating tariffs and other legal restrictions on trade among the member nations. But the group will establish and keep uniform tariffs and other restrictions on imports from nonmember countries.

These countries seek to have free trade among the member countries just as we have free trade among our states. And just as our tariffs are the same at every port from Los Angeles to Boston, all of the ports in the Common Market countries will have the same tariffs.

These changes in trade policies are being made gradually, especially on farm products. It may be 10 years or more before the new trade policies become completely effective on agricultural products. Thus the impact of the Common Market on U. S. farm exports will be spread over several years.

Among the Common Market countries West Germany and The Netherlands are our biggest customers. Each bought about $325 million worth of our farm products in the year ending last June 30. All together the Common Market nations bought from us farm products valued at $1,130 million, or 23 percent of our total agricultural exports.

But this figure does not show the full importance of the purchases by the Common Market group. These countries are all good cash customers, while our exports to some other nations are largely foreign aid.

England (the United Kingdom) last year bought $467 million worth of U. S. farm products, 10 percent of our total exports. Thus England and the Common Market countries together take about one-third of all our exports. England is also a good cash buyer for our products.

The countries of the Common Market are especially good buyers of cotton, soybeans, corn, wheat and tobacco. Last year they bought $270 million worth of cotton, $118 million of soybeans, $120 million of wheat, $103 million of corn and $86 million of tobacco.

England bought $160 million worth of tobacco, $105 million of feed grains, $59 million of cotton, $31 million of lard and $30 million of wheat and flour.

Whether our exports to the Common Market countries shrink or swell will depend in part upon how good we are at political trading. Our bargaining power consists mainly in being able to offer competitive prices on the products that we want to sell, and reduced tariffs upon the products that the countries of the Common Market want to sell to us.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

THE USDA HAS SOLD 600 MILLION BUSHELS OF CORN

Where Has It Gone?

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAR. 20, 1962

The USDA, or more specifically the Commodity Credit Corporation, has sold more than 600 million bushels of corn since last October 1. Many farmers have asked, "How has it been possible to sell so much corn, and what has become of it?"

First, it is possible to sell so much corn because there is a big market for corn in this country. Last year, for example, around one billion bushels was sold and moved out of the communities where it was produced.

Second, most of the sales by the USDA are replacing sales that otherwise would be made by farmers. Some evidence of this is provided by the relatively slow disappearance of corn from farms from October 1 to January 1. Farmers had 5 percent more hogs and fed about 8 percent more cattle than they did the year before. They also produced 3 percent more eggs, 3 percent more milk and considerably more broilers and turkeys.

But, according to USDA statistics, the disappearance of corn (sales and use) from farms was about 250 million bushels less than the year before. These figures, plus reports from elevators, show that sales of corn by farmers were reduced sharply below normal levels.

Exports from October 1 to March 2 totaled 169 million bushels, up 56 million from the year before. This is a big increase, but it is equal to less than one-tenth of the total amount of corn that has been sold by the USDA since last October 1.

The use of corn by processors does not change much from year to year, or from season to season. The wet process corn milling industry, which makes corn starch and syrup, uses about 3 million bushels a week. The dry milling industry, which makes corn meal, uses about 2 million bushels a week. The use of corn for making alcohol takes about 600,000 bushels a week. All of these industries have been operating at about normal rates since October 1.

While farmers sold relatively little corn in the October-December quarter, they apparently fed around 100 million bushels more than a year before. The total amount fed, including purchased corn and corn in mixed feeds, was close to one billion bushels.

Farmers have continued to feed heavily during this January-March quarter. Livestock numbers and milk and egg production are larger than they were a year ago. More important, winter weather conditions have required the use of more than usual amounts of grain per animal. Finally, considerable amounts of corn were left in the fields over winter, and much of this will be lost.

In summary, we had at the beginning of this year 3,632 million bushels of corn, old and new. This was 63 million less than one year before. Use and exports have totaled around 200 million more than a year earlier. Thus much of the sale of corn by the CCC has served to increase stocks in private hands. Government stocks will increase by several hundred million bushels this summer when farmers deliver their 1961 crop which is now being placed under price support.

We will learn more about the corn situation during April, when the USDA will release its next quarterly reports on stocks of corn.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

HOG PRICE OUTLOOK IS FAVORABLE

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAR. 28, 1962

Farmers Hold Line on Production

Another good year for hog producers now seems assured. Latest government reports indicate that farmers will produce only a few more hogs this year than they did in 1961. Here is the outlook for market supplies, quarter by quarter:

April-May-June. Market supplies will be up a little from last year. Farmers in 10 leading producing states had 4 percent more three- to six-month-old hogs on hand March 1 than they had a year earlier. Most of these hogs will be marketed in the next three months.

July-August-September. Apparently marketings will be about the same as in comparable months of 1961. Farmers in the 10 states reported 2 percent fewer pigs under three months old on hand March 1 this year than last. These pigs will be marketed during the summer quarter. Summer marketings may be increased by delayed sales of fall pigs and by some hurried sales of March pigs.

October-November-December. Market supplies may be a bit larger in the fall quarter this year than they were in 1961. Farmers in the leading states report that they will increase farrowings by 2 percent in March through May this year over last year. The number of pigs saved may be up less than 2 percent.

Next Winter. Reports indicate that farmers plan to increase farrowings by 5 percent this summer over a year ago. Actual farrowings will likely be up 3 to 6 percent. Thus our best guess now is that market supplies will be moderately larger next winter than they were this past winter.

Consumer Demand. The demand for pork should be a little stronger this year than it was in 1961. Consumer buying power is greater. Population is up 1 2/3 percent. Employment is up about 2 percent. Average weekly earnings of factory workers are up 7 percent--because of higher hourly wage rates and more hours of work per week.

Prospects for employment are good but not spectacular. The automobile industry is having a good year, and sales of farm machinery and equipment are up. But both businesses and families continue to spend cautiously.

Pork may meet less competition from poultry this summer and fall than it did in 1961. Competition from beef seems likely to be about the same as last year.

Price Situation and Prospect. So far this year prices of barrows and gilts at midwest terminal markets have averaged about $16.70 a hundred pounds. That is $1.00 below a year before. The decline reflects market supplies about 5 percent above 1961.

For the rest of the year hog prices seem likely to average about the same as in 1961. Last year's averages were $16.67 in the spring quarter, $18.13 in the summer, and $16.50 in the fall.

Market receipts may shrink temporarily some time in the next few weeks as farmers get busy in the fields. This might produce a price bulge.

Best monthly average prices seem likely to be in July or August, as in five of the past six years.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS APRIL 11, 1962

PRICES OF FARMLAND RESUME UPTREND

Illinois Prices Up 400 Percent Since 1933

Prices of farmland resumed their upward trend in 1961. They went up an average of 2 percent in Illinois and 4 percent for the nation as a whole, according to a recent report by the USDA.

The average U. S. price of farmland reached a new record high at the end of 1961. In Illinois the average was still about 1/2 percent lower than the record peak two years before, although in some areas prices hit record highs.

Further increases are likely in 1962 unless bad weather causes poor crop yields.

Prices of farmland have been going up almost continuously since 1933--29 years. Prices of land in Illinois have increased 400 percent. That is, they are five times as high as they were at the low point in 1933. Half of this increase has come since 1950.

How do present prices of farm real estate compare with those at the peak of the boom after World War I? Prices in Illinois are 70 percent higher than they were in the peak year, 1920. For the U. S. as a whole, the average is up 74 percent.

The basic cause of the rise in prices of farmland is inflation. The farmer's dollar has lost 65 percent of its value in the past 50 years, and 56 percent since 1940. Fear, or expectation, of further inflation is a strong factor supporting the land market.

Production controls are also an important factor in the market. Many farmers want to buy more land in order to get a bigger acreage allotment. Others want to sell their farms because their allotments are too small.

Many farmers have enough labor and machinery to farm much more land than they now operate. They buy, or want to buy, more land to make more profitable use of their labor and equipment. In 1960-61, 46 percent of all U. S. purchases of land were for farm enlargement. In the corn belt, 56 percent of the land was bought to increase the size of farms.

Sales for nonagricultural uses. Official reports of prices of farmland include only land being purchased for farming purposes. Land sold for nonagricultural uses usually brings much higher prices than land sold for farming.

In the eastern corn belt (principally Illinois and Indiana), land for subdivisions usually sells for $900 to $1,850 an acre, and frequently around $1,400. Small tracts of an acre or so for rural residence purposes, but not for subdivision, often bring $1,250 an acre, and some as much as $1,750. Prices for land to be used for commercial and industrial purposes range from about $2,500 to $6,500 an acre, with many of the sales around $3,000.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS APR. 18, 1962

PRODUCTION CONTROLS FOR LIVESTOCK DISCUSSED AT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

Everyone who knows farm people knows that many of them have serious income problems. Public programs for dealing with these problems have been tried and discussed for as long as most people can remember. One type of program, production controls for livestock producers, was discussed recently for two days at Purdue University. The occasion was the annual meeting of the National Institute of Animal Agriculture.

Speakers included economists from government service and state universities, representatives of agricultural businesses and farmers. They brought out several important facts that should be of concern to all citizens.

One economist, arguing for controls, said that farmers could have reasonable prices if they accepted controls, but not otherwise. Significantly, he did not say what prices would be considered reasonable, nor how much farmers could sell at those prices.

Another economist, not an official of the USDA, indicated that the goal of production controls would be to maintain livestock prices near present levels. He also said that so long as some people are willing to work in agriculture at low prices we cannot raise labor returns in farming much above present levels.

In a question period one man asked a panel of experts whether farm production controls had really worked in any country. No one on the panel, which included two widely traveled farm economists, could name any such nation.

Another economist pointed out that production controls could be in conflict with our overall national price policy. Price stability is a cornerstone of both our domestic and our foreign economic policy, in view of our balance-of-payments position. (Remember steel?)

There is no way to accurately forecast the effects of production controls upon food prices and the rest of the economy. If prices of food rise under a system of supply management, the government will hear forcibly from consumers. A rise of only 1 percent in the "cost-of-living" index would call for immediate wage increases of 2 to 3 cents an hour for two million workers, largely in manufacturing industries such as farm implements and automobiles.

Wage increases in these industries would set a pattern for similar raises for other wage earners. These would tend to raise prices of things that farmers buy. This would offset, in part at least, any price gains that farmers obtain by production controls.

It would also put the United States at a further disadvantage in selling both farm and industrial products in other countries. It would hinder our efforts to maintain our gold reserves and extend aid to the developing nations of the free world.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS APR. 25, 1962

REPORT OF CATTLE ON FEED WAS GOOD NEWS FOR FARMERS

There was good news for cattle feeders in the quarterly report of cattle on feed. It showed that farmers were feeding only 1 percent more cattle on April 1 this year than in 1961.

All of this increase was in the western states. The corn belt had 1 percent fewer cattle in feedlots. The total number of cattle on feed in 26 leading states was 7,200,000.

The report also indicates that cattle will be marketed somewhat later this year than last. The cattle in feedlots are lighter, and farmers plan to market them more slowly.

Farmers had 376,000 head of cattle weighing over 1,100 pounds, 25 percent less than a year before. They had 1,653,000 head weighing 900 to 1,100 pounds, 5 percent less; and they planned to market 2 percent less in the April-June quarter than in the same months last year.

There are signs of a moderate increase in cattle marketings in the last half of this year. On April 1 farmers were feeding 2,002,000 cattle weighing 700 to 900 pounds, 5 percent more than a year before. They were feeding 2,590,000 head of cattle weighing 500 to 700 pounds, also 5 percent more. They were feeding 579,000 calves weighing under 500 pounds, 21 percent more. Of the cattle on feed April 1, they planned to sell 4 percent more after July 1 than they sold a year earlier.

Other facts also point to increased slaughter later this year. For example, at the first of this year ranchers and farmers had 21,698,000 beef calves, 5 percent more than a year earlier. Some of these calves will be fed out and marketed before the end of this year.

Cow numbers, too, are up. With 28,111,000 on hand, farmers and ranchers have 16 percent more than they had four years ago. It is expected that they will sell more cows this fall than in 1961.

Although signs point to a moderate increase in cattle slaughter later this year, the demand for beef is also up. Population is up 1 2/3 percent, and employment 2 percent. Factory workers are putting in more hours, earning about $6.00 more per week.

Supplies of competitive meats will be no greater than last year. Farmers are holding the line on hog production. The output of broilers may be down 5 or 6 percent, and turkeys 10 to 12 percent.

Last year the prices of fed cattle formed a broad "V". Starting from a high monthly average of $27.42 in January, prices of Choice steers at Chicago dropped $5.00 in five months and then regained $4.00 in the last half of the year.

This uptrend continued through the first three months of this year and into early April. In the first week of April, prices averaged $27.86, $2.13 better than one year before.

There could be a further price rise, but this would be unusual. In each of the past four years, prices of Choice steers made a winter or early spring high and then declined $3.00 to $5.00 in four to five months. Some such decline is expected this year.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

STOCKS OF FEED GRAINS AND SOYBEANS ARE 3 PERCENT SMALLER THAN LAST YEAR

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAY 2, 1962

Some progress is being made in reducing stocks of grains, but it is rather slow. This trend is shown in the quarterly report of grain stocks, released by the USDA in late April.

Total stocks of feed grains and soybeans in the United States on April 1 represented the production from 117 million acres, only 3 million, or 3 percent, less than a year ago. Stocks of feed grains represented the production of 102 million acres, 7 million less than a year earlier. But stocks of soybeans represented the produce of 15 million acres, 4 million more than last year,

Disappearance (use and exports) of corn and soybeans has been greater since harvest time than it was a year ago. But disappearance of sorghum grain, oats and barley has been less. The apparent disappearance of corn totaled 2,247 million bushels from October through March, 10 percent more than a year earlier. Some of this increase may result from too high crop estimates and heavy field losses. The long, hard winter also boosted the use of corn for livestock feed. And exports have increased substantially.

The amount of corn fed in the first half of this marketing year is estimated at 1,934 million bushels. This is 157 million bushels, or 9 percent, more than was fed in the like period a year earlier.

Exports of corn in the October-March half-year totaled 207 million bushels. This was 66 million bushels, or 47 percent, more than the year before, and more than twice the average for the comparable period in the five preceding years. This increase in exports reflects the rapidly growing demand for animal feed in foreign countries. About two-thirds of our exports of corn are sales for cash, without any subsidy.

The amount of corn used by industry in the six months is estimated at 104 million bushels. That is up 13 million bushels, or 14 percent, from last year.

Disappearance of oats from July through March totaled 844 million bushels, 1 percent less than in the preceding year. Stocks remaining on April 1 were listed at 494 million bushels, or 11 percent less than in 1961.

Use and exports of barley for the July-March period totaled 343 million bushels, 5 percent less than a year earlier. The supply left on April 1 was 335 million bushels, 8 percent less than a year before.

The season of heavy use of feed grains is past. For the remainder of this marketing year, disappearance will be only a little larger than it was last year.

The disappearance of soybeans from October 1 through March is figured at 340 million bushels, 7 percent more than a year earlier. This left 359 million bushels on hand April 1, 37 percent more than a year before.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAY 9, 1962

HIGHER PRICES FOR HOGS ARE EXPECTED

Prices for hogs may be near, or past, their low for this spring. The summer price rise should be nearly normal.

The hog market has been running close to expectations so far this year. The output of pork has been about 5 percent larger than it was in 1961, and prices for hogs have averaged around 7 percent lower.

Weekly market receipts of hogs typically decrease during May and June. Slaughter normally decreases to its yearly low the first week in July. As market receipts shrink, prices of hogs work upward, often continuing to climb even after market supplies begin to expand in July and August.

Market supplies may continue around 5 percent over last year's levels until July. Supplies in prospect for July-August-September are no larger than those of last year, and supplies during October-November-December may be about the same as in 1961.

Here is the basis for these supply estimates:

1. On March 1 farmers in 10 corn-belt states had 4 percent more pigs three to six months old than they had a year earlier. Most of these pigs will be sold by the end of June.

2. Also, on March 1 farmers had 2 percent fewer pigs under three months old than they had a year before. This is the basis for expecting that market receipts will be no larger this summer than they were in 1961.

3. As of March 1 farmers reported that they would have 2 percent more sows to farrow in March-April-May than the year before, and 5 percent more in June-July-August. But, as in recent months, actual farrowings may fall short of the numbers reported by farmers.

Consumer demand for pork is expected to be stronger this summer than it was last year. Employment is up about 2 percent, and factory workers are putting in about 2 percent more hours per week.

Another favorable factor is that the supply of broilers appears likely to be about 5 percent smaller this summer than it was in 1961.

In 1961 the price of hogs declined about $2.00 a hundred pounds from February to May and then regained the $2.00 in June, July and August. The fall decline was about $2.50. The yearly average was $17.16 for barrows and gilts at Chicago.

So far this year prices of hogs have averaged about $1.00 a hundred pounds lower than in 1961. The best chance for equaling 1961 prices will be in the third quarter--July-August-September. The third quarter 1961 average was a little over $18 for barrows and gilts at Chicago.

Best prices of the year are usually recorded in July or August. The typical spring-to-summer price rise is $2.00 to $3.00 a hundred pounds, and it is spread over about three months. There seems to be nothing in the present outlook to prevent a normal seasonal rise in prices of hogs this summer.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAY 16, 1962

WHEAT STOCKS SHOW SHORTAGES AS WELL AS SURPLUSES!

Our national wheat programs have brought us scarcities of some kinds of wheat, and monstrous surpluses of others. All wheats may look alike to a city slicker, but they produce mighty different results on the dinner table! If you do not think so, ask your wife to bake an angel food cake with "macaroni flour."

DURUM WHEAT. Macaroni and similar products are made from durum wheat, which is produced mostly in North Dakota. The USDA estimates that by July 1 our stocks will be down to only 2 million bushels, or enough to last 4 weeks! Practically all of that will be used up before the new crop is harvested. Amber durum wheat recently was selling for $3.15 a bushel at Minneapolis.

SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT. It is grown mainly in southern and eastern Illinois, and in Indiana and Ohio. Flour from soft red winter wheat makes the best cakes, biscuits, pastries, and crackers. By July 1 our stocks of this class of wheat will be down to about 22 million bushels, or enough to supply us for 6 weeks. Most of our soft red winter wheat is used for food in the United States. Recent prices at midwest terminal markets were $2.16 to $2.20 a bushel.

SOFT WHITE WHEAT. This wheat is grown largely in the Pacific Northwest, but some is grown in Michigan, and New York. Like soft red wheat, its flour makes good crackers, cakes, pastries, and biscuits. Soft white wheat also makes excellent breakfast foods. By July 1 stocks will be down to about 26 million bushels, or enough to meet normal domestic and export needs for 7 weeks. Around two-thirds of our production of white wheat is exported. Recent terminal market prices were around $2.16 a bushel.

HARD RED SPRING WHEAT. This produces our finest bread flour. U. S. production is mainly in North Dakota and adjoining areas of South Dakota and Montana, but the biggest part of the hard red spring wheat area is in Canada. Canadian stocks have been reduced in recent years,

but we still have a surplus. Most of our production is used in this country. Carry-over stocks on July 1 are expected to be around 180 million bushels, enough to meet our domestic needs and normal exports for a full year. Prices at Minneapolis recently ranged from $2.37 to $2.52, depending upon the amount of protein in the wheat.

HARD RED WINTER WHEAT. This is our regular bread wheat. It is also our biggest headache! Hard red winter wheat is grown mainly in Kansas, Oklahoma, northern Texas, and adjoining areas, but the producing region comes as far east as western Illinois. Carry-over stocks on July 1 are forecast at a fantastic 1,150 million bushels. That is enough to meet normal domestic uses and average exports for 2 years and 6 weeks! Exports, all subsidized, are greater than the amounts used for food in this country.

Recent prices at Kansas City were $2.13 to $2.34, depending upon protein content. These prices are about twice the costs of production on efficient wheat farms, and well above world market values. Thus, it should not be surprising that we have a huge surplus.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAY 23, 1962

HOW EFFECTIVE ARE COMPULSORY CROP CONTROLS?

How effective are compulsory crop controls? This question is of special concern to corn-belt farmers because of legislation now pending in Washington.

Congress is being strongly urged to pass a law that would force farmers to choose between (1) compulsory crop controls and (2) an unsupported market that would be depressed by sales of government-owned surplus stocks.

Farmers have no opportunity to vote on this legislation. It will be enacted or rejected by members of Congress, most of whom represent urban voters. Both farmers and urban voters can express their views to their representatives in Congress.

Urban people are being urged to support the legislation on the basis that it would reduce costs to them. Farmers are being urged to support it on the basis that it would increase their income. It seems to be impossible that both of these goals can be achieved at the same time.

Some savings in costs could be made by reducing surplus stocks and consequently storage expenses. But most of the costs of farm programs are for other purposes. Furthermore, the government will no doubt want to hold substantial stocks for use in an emergency.

If farmers are to get more income, the money must come from some place. If it does not come from the taxpayer through the public treasury, then it must come from higher prices in the grocery store. There will be little or no saving for nonfarm people.

It is said that compulsory production controls have raised the incomes of some farmers. The growers of burley tobacco are often cited as an example. A recent study and report by the USDA (Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 230, revised June 1961) contains some important facts about the effects of the burley tobacco program in Kentucky. It shows financial facts about three groups of farms in 1960.

A group of the largest tobacco farms averaged 212 acres. Most of this acreage was in pasture and hay and was used by beef cattle. The land was valued at $400 an acre, a high price for pasture and hay land.

The real reason for the high price for these farms is that it includes the privilege of growing and selling tobacco. This privilege, which always goes with the land, has a value, in the land market, of several thousand dollars an acre. These farms had an average of 5.4 acres of tobacco, which produced 53 percent of the total cash receipts.

The average net income per farm was $5,494. When a charge for capital is subtracted from net farm income, the remainder, if any, is called the return to operator and his family for their labor. For these farms the total investment averaged $98,940 per farm. When a charge for capital was made at the rates current in 1960, it was found that the return to operator and family labor was a minus 21 cents an hour.

On smaller tobacco farms, and with dairy instead of beef cattle, the returns for labor were 34 cents an hour. Where tobacco brought in less than half the income, the return for labor was 65 cents an hour.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

Why pour water in the basement, when THE FIRE IS ON THE ROOF?

URBANA, ILLINOIS MAY 29, 1962

Why pour water in the basement when the fire is on the roof? We would not do that if we had a real fire. But we have been just as impractical in our efforts to raise farm income.

Farm income is what is left for the producer after all costs are paid. Farm income therefore can be raised by increasing the difference between prices of farm products and the costs of producing and marketing them.

Why be concerned about costs? Two reasons: First, we have worked on the price side for 30 years and have not had satisfactory results. Second, nearly 90 percent of the money spent by consumers for farm products is absorbed by costs of marketing and production.

Prices of our farm products are strongly influenced by world-wide conditions. But costs--of marketing and production--are largely "made in the U. S. A." Farmers suffer when U. S.-made costs get too high in relation to world-made prices.

Our prices are dependent upon world conditions because (1) we produce for foreign as well as domestic markets and (2) we maintain relatively open markets with little restrictions upon imports. Neither of these conditions seems likely to be changed in the foreseeable future.

In the latest fiscal year we exported 49 percent of our wheat and cotton, 26 percent of our soybeans and the oil from 14 percent more. We also exported 56 percent of our rice, 29 percent of our tobacco and 16 percent of the feed grains sold by farmers--$531 million worth. In all, we exported nearly $5 billion worth of farm products, while we imported over $3 1/2 billion worth.

Now look at costs: Of a dollar spent by U. S. consumers for food, 61 percent is taken for marketing expenses, mostly for labor. Of the 39 cents that gets back to the farmer, about 27 cents is paid out for production expenses, again largely labor costs. Only 12 cents of the

consumer's food dollar is left for the farm family. And even the buying power of this 12 cents is continuously reduced by rising costs of supplies and services required by the farm family.

Other industries, too, are injured by excessive increases in costs. But agriculture suffers more than most because it is more dependent upon foreign markets and foreign competition.

There is strong evidence that the U. S. wage-cost structure is too high. The evidence is the flight of U. S. money and gold to foreign lands. Money, including gold, always goes to markets that have the best buys.

Many economists and public officials now recognize the general problem. Thus we have had government pressure for noninflationary wage contracts and price policies for steel and other industries. But as yet too few of our leaders recognize the effect of excessive rises in wages and costs on farm income.

For 30 years we have concentrated on raising prices--pouring water in the basement. The results have been unsatisfactory to farmers and the public--because our costs, the fire on the roof, have received too little attention. It is time to change our strategy.

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ILLINOIS
FARMERS'
OUTLOOK
LETTER

URBANA,
ILLINOIS
JUNE 6,
1962

BEEF CATTLE PRICES FOLLOW NORMAL PATTERN

Prices of fat cattle seem to be following a pattern similar to those of the three years 1958, '59 and '60. In each of those years they were high and rising in the first quarter. After that they declined to $3 to $4 a hundred pounds over periods ranging from four to five months.

Last year, 1961, the general pattern was about the same, except that the turning points came much earlier and the decline was more severe. Prices peaked in January and then lost $5 in five months. The average for Choice steers was under $22.50 in both June and July.

Prices then rose sharply in August and continued upward more slowly for eight months. By April of this year the monthly average was back up to $27.45, which was $5 above last summer's low and about equal to the highs of 1961 and 1960.

In May, prices declined about $1 but were around $3 over year-before figures. This may have been the beginning of a decline less severe than that of 1961, but similar to those of the three years before.

The fact that prices are higher now than they were last year seems to be due to stronger consumer demand rather than to smaller supplies. The business recession was at its worst in the spring of 1961. Conditions have improved considerably in the past 10 months. In April personal income was flowing into citizens' hands at the rate of $439 billion a year, 7 percent more than the year before.

So far this year beef output has been about the same as it was in 1961. But supplies are expected to be moderately larger in the last half of the year. We expect more cattle to be slaughtered, primarily because farmers and ranchers had 5 percent more beef calves (under 12 months) on hand January 1 than they had a year earlier. Many of these animals will reach slaughter weights this fall.

Another reason for expecting increased slaughter is the increase in numbers of beef cows. Ranchers and farmers have increased their cowherds by 16 percent in the past four years, so it seems reasonable to expect them to begin to sell more cows this fall.

A final point is that many cattle that were grazed last winter on wheat pastures will be ready for market this fall.

But the expected increase in market supplies of cattle will be partly offset by improved demand. Population is up nearly 2 percent and consumer buying power should be up about 5 percent from the 1961 level. Supplies of pork won't be much different from last year. And we will have less turkey and probably fewer broilers.

These facts give some basis for hoping that cattle prices will decline considerably less this year than they did in 1961, and possibly less than the average decline in the years 1958, '59 and '60.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS JUNE 13, 1962

HOW MUCH MEAT DO WE IMPORT?

Farmers and others often ask for basic facts about the imports of meats: How much is imported? Why? How do imports affect livestock prices? In this report we will try to give you answers to these questions--basic facts about our imports of meat and other animal products.

We buy from foreign suppliers whenever they offer the best buys--price and quality considered. Imports are part of the supply. They affect prices the same as any other supplies of the same kind. In the latest fiscal year, which ended last June (1961), we bought more than $716 million worth of meats and other animal products from foreign suppliers. The principal items on our shopping list were meats, wool, dairy products and hides and skins.

BEEF. The biggest item was beef and veal. We bought 532 million pounds valued at $186 million. Most of it was boneless beef from Australia and New Zealand, but we also bought beef from Argentina, Ireland, Mexico, Canada, Brazil, Nicaragua, Uruguay and Denmark.

Most of the beef that we buy is used for making bologna, frankfurters and other processed meats. We have had a scarcity of low-priced beef for making processed meats because the slaughter of cows has been small in recent years. In the past two calendar years, imports of beef and veal have made up about 5 1/2 percent of our total supply.

FEEDER CATTLE. U. S. farmers normally buy 700,000 to over a million feeder cattle from Canada and Mexico. In terms of weight, these cattle represent over 1 percent of our beef supply.

PORK. Last year we imported 166 million pounds of pork valued at $112 million. Most of it was high-quality canned ham and shoulders. The principal suppliers of canned pork are Denmark, The Netherlands and Poland, while Canada is the leading supplier of fresh pork. Some consumers prefer to buy imported ham even though it costs more than that canned in this country. Imports of pork have made up about 2 percent of our total supply in the past two years.

MUTTON AND LAMB. Imports of mutton and lamb totaled 57 million pounds, valued at $14 million. Most of it was mutton, from Australia and New Zealand, which was used for making sausages and other processed meat products. Imports make up about 12 percent of our total supply.

WOOL. In 1960-61 we imported 198 million pounds of carpet wool, valued at $105 million. We produce very little of this kind of wool. We also imported 117 million pounds of apparel wool, worth $79 million. About one-third of our needs for apparel wool are met by imports.

SKINS. Imports of hides and skins are valued at $60 million to $80 million annually. These are mostly sheep and goat skins.

DAIRY PRODUCTS. Imports of dairy products generally are valued at about $50 million a year. They consist mostly of cheese varieties not widely produced in the United States. Imports of cheese make up about 4 1/2 percent of our supply.

Why allow imports when we have surpluses? Because our nation gains from trade. Remember that our exports are greater than our imports and that some of the products we import are produced with grain that was purchased from U. S. farmers.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

CROPS GROWING WELL IN MOST AREAS

South Suffers From Early Drouth

URBANA, ILLINOIS JUNE 20, 1962

Crop prospects, as usual, are good in some parts of the country but poor in others. In general, the condition of crops is not so good as it was a year ago. For example, the average condition of pastures on June 1 of this year was 78 percent compared with 84 percent a year earlier.

Two large areas show marked changes from 1961--one for the better, the other for worse.

The improvement is in the Northern Plains--the Dakotas and Montana. This area suffered from severe drouth in 1961. The drouth continued into the early spring of this year, but then rainfall in May was two or three times the average amount. In some places spring planting was delayed by muddy fields.

SOUTHERN DROUTH. By contrast, the southern states, which had fair to excellent prospects a year ago, rated only poor to fair this year. The region of poor crops extends from Texas and Kansas eastward to the Atlantic coast. Many areas in this region have received rains in recent weeks, but they were generally too late to help the early crops.

The corn belt midwest had good to excellent prospects for crops on June 1, except in Missouri, where conditions were reported fair to good.

STATE REPORTS. Illinois farmers finished planting corn 10 days to two weeks earlier than usual, and the crop is about a week ahead of normal. Some fields are weedy because of too much rain. Ponding has caused some damage. Pastures are better than average. Acre yields of wheat will be less than last year. The Crop Reporting Service on June 1 forecast the average yield at 35 bushels an acre, three bushels less than in 1961.

Iowa and Indiana also have had plenty of rain--too much in some areas. In these states, as in Illinois, some farmers suffer from excessive rain, but the corn belt never has too much rain for high average yields. Minnesota has had lots of rain and crops are late.

Eastern Nebraska has been dry, but the central and western parts had more than the normal amount of rain in May. Furthermore, good prices for corn in recent years have encouraged many Nebraska farmers to put in irrigation systems so that they can get big yields every year.

Several other areas on the fringe of the corn belt have been dry. These include parts of Missouri, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin.

SOFT WHEAT. Less soft red winter wheat will be produced this year than in 1961. Our estimate, which is unofficial, is that the crop will be around 160 million bushels. This would be about 22 percent less than last year and 10 percent less than the 10-year average. The carry-over of soft red winter wheat is only 20 to 25 million bushels.

WESTERN RANGE CONDITIONS. The Northern Plains and the Intermountain area, which suffered from drouth in 1961, are much improved. Many parts of the Southern Plains suffered from early drouth, but most areas have had good rains lately.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS
JUNE 27, 1962

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR HOG PRODUCERS

Spring Pig Crop Cut 2 Percent

The most important news of the year for hog producers is the spring pig crop report, which is released late in June. The report for this year shows that farmers cut their spring pig crop by 2 percent.

This fact is interesting and important for several reasons. The cut insures good prices for hogs during the next six or eight months. But it does not seem to be in the long-time best interest of hog producers.

SUMMER MARKET. According to the USDA report, farmers in 10 leading hog states had the same number of hogs 3 to 6 months old on hand June 1 as they had a year before. These hogs will make up the market supply during the third quarter of this year. Consumer demand will be at least as strong as it was a year ago. Prices should hold near 1961 levels, when barrows and gilts at 8 midwest markets averaged $18.13 a hundred pounds.

FALL MARKET. Farmers had 3 percent fewer hogs under 3 months old on hand June 1 than they had last year. The market supply may be reduced correspondingly in the last three months of this year. Prices may average near the $16.50 posted last fall.

1963 MARKETS. Farmers reported that they plan to have 2 percent more sows farrow this summer and fall than they had last year. With normal luck, the increase in pigs saved would be only about 1 percent. This would be less than the growth of population, which is 1 2/3 percent a year. When hogs from these litters go to market next winter and spring, prices are likely to be near those in the first half of this year.

In cutting the 1962 spring pig crop by 2 percent, farmers did just the opposite of what they reported to the USDA last December. At that time they said they planned to increase production by 2 percent.

It is interesting to speculate why farmers cut hog production when prices were unusually favorable at breeding time. The official hog-corn price ratio averaged 16.8 from September through January. The 10-year average for the same months is only 13.9.

We suspect that the regular method of figuring the hog-corn ratio is no longer appropriate. The regular procedure is to divide the market price of hogs by the market price of corn. But many farmers now sell their corn to the government rather than at the market. The market price averaged only 98 cents a bushel, but the government price was $1.20. Using this price for corn shows the hog-corn price ratio to have been 14.3 instead of the 16.8 listed in official papers.

The unfavorable feature of the cut-back in hog production is this: The producers of pork are not holding their share of the market for meat. The relative shortage of pork causes consumers, especially the younger generation, to develop their taste for other meats.

Expansion too fast, of course, also causes trouble, as hog producers know. The desirable course is one of moderate, steady expansion.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS JULY 5, 1962

ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A DEPRESSION?

"Do you think that we are going to have a depression?"

"No. Our bankers have learned how to prevent depressions by controlling credit."

This was part of a conversation that we overheard recently in a family living room. The questioner, looking up from his reading, was a high school junior. The answer was confidently supplied by the oldest in the family, a recent college graduate.

The question is indicative of the widespread concern about our economic condition and business prospects. The answer might get an "A" from some professors. But most bankers and other businessmen surely would be skeptical.

We cannot blame the younger generation for their economic optimism. Very few people under 30 can remember the last depression, and no one has bothered to teach them the economic facts of life.

Perhaps we ought to describe a depression so that the younger generation would recognize one if it came along. A depression is like a recession, only worse. Business is poor. Sales drop off. Factories and other employers lay off many workers. In the depression of the 1930s, 25 to 30 percent of the labor force was unemployed many for several years.

In a serious depression many individuals and businesses are unable to pay their debts. Many families lose their automobiles, furniture, and even their houses!

Prices generally decline during a depression. Costs come down less, and more slowly. This puts farmers and other businessmen in a price-cost squeeze. Those with too much debt fail.

Many depressions, including the big one of the 1930s, are world wide. The whole world, or at least most of the industrialized part of it, seems to get sick at the same time. Because of this, it is difficult, if not impossible, for any one country to recover while others remain depressed.

What causes depressions? Lack of sufficient spending and investing. Spending for new automobiles, houses and schools creates jobs. Jobs are also created when businessmen spend for new factories, stores and service centers.

In the 1920s a man often greeted his friends with the question, "What do you say?" A popular reply was, "Save your money!"

Saving was supposed to be a virtue. But if there was too much saving in proportion to borrowing for investment, we had depression.

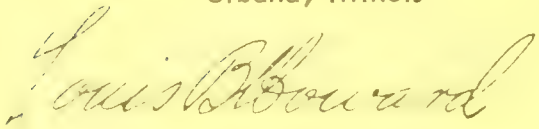
During major wars national governments spend much more than they can take from us in taxes and more than they can borrow from savers. They make up the difference by creating new money. So it was in World War II.

After the war families and business borrowed heavily and spent what they did not have. Now we have a car in every garage and another on the driveway or parked in the street. We have more houses and apartments than we have families. Many factories and industrial plants are overbuilt.

We are not forecasting that there will be a serious depression in the near future. On the other hand, we are not optimistic enough to believe that each gentle wave of prosperity will be higher than the one before.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

CONSIDER THE DAIRYMAN!

URBANA, ILLINOIS JULY 11, 1962

Consider the dairyman!

He riseth up early in the morning--to feed and milk the cows.

He stayeth up late at night--to feed and milk the cows.

He has much to contemplate--his herd, his barns, his production records, the place of milk in the life of the nation, the price of milk, price supports, costs of government programs--and the threat or promise of production controls.

His industry is one of the most interesting and important of U. S. farm enterprises. Sales of milk bring dairymen nearly $5 billion a year. Milk and foods containing milk are important parts of healthful meals. Expenditures for dairy products are a big part of family food bills. Costs of price supports are of much concern to taxpayers and government officials.

Because of its unusual nature, milk is probably the world's most regulated farm product. Governments have done a lot for, and to, dairymen.

Way back when great grandfather was a boy, dairymen prevailed upon the federal and state governments to block competition. They secured laws to restrict the manufacture and sale of margarine. Dairymen prospered, as nearly half of their output was needed for making butter.

After World War II the political tides turned against dairy farmers. Most of the federal and state restrictions on the production and sale of margarine were repealed. Dairymen lost nearly two-thirds of their market for butter. When sales of butter declined, more milk was left for use as fluid milk and for making cheese, ice cream and other dairy products.

The federal government began a program of price support in the 1930s. It was resumed and expanded after World War II. In the past nine years this program has cost over $3.4 billion. Costs now run about $2 million a day. This expense causes Washington officials to try to get a program that will require less money from the public treasury. Production controls have been proposed to reduce costs to the government and to the taxpayer.

Farmers have varying views on production controls, depending in part on their personal situations. Some dairymen with big herds would probably benefit from compulsory controls--limits on production. They could do nicely with their present volume or a little less, and with a small increase in the price of milk.

But young farmers just getting started in the dairy business would face a different situation. Even with higher prices for milk, their present volume of business, or a smaller one, would not provide an adequate income for a growing family.

This problem cannot be solved by making production rights salable. If dairying becomes more profitable as a result of production controls, the rights to produce would become valuable property. These rights, or privileges, would cost about as much as the benefits the farmer would receive from them.

If the production controls were effective in raising the incomes of dairymen (which is questionable), the net effect would be to give windfall profits to established dairymen and to set up equal costs for every farmer who wanted to expand or get into the dairy business.

Yes, consider the dairyman, and his problems.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

URBANA, ILLINOIS
JULY 18, 1962

CROP PROSPECTS ARE GOOD TO EXCELLENT

Crop prospects are good to excellent--better than last year--over most of the nation.

Almost perfect growing conditions have prevailed in the Corn Belt, the Lake States, the Central and the Northern Great Plains and the Western States.

There are, of course, some poor spots. One important area has had far too much rain, and some others have had severe drouth.

If there is an award for hard luck, it should go to farmers in the valley of the Red River, which forms the boundary between Minnesota and North Dakota. Last year they were burned out by drouth. This year they have been flooded out by excessive rains.

There are three principal drouth areas this year--one in the Northeast, one in the South and one in the Southwest.

The northeastern drouth centered in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio. The southern drouth was scattered from Arkansas to Florida. The drouth in the Southwest stretched from southern Texas northwest across the state, over New Mexico and into eastern Colorado.

WHEAT. The national average wheat yield is expected to equal the 23.9 bushels per acre harvested last year. The Illinois state average is estimated at 34 bushels an acre. This would be 2 bushels less than last year and the third highest on record.

OATS. The average yield of oats for the nation is estimated at 43.2 bushels, which would be one bushel more than last year and the third best on record. In Illinois the average yield is estimated at 55 bushels, one bushel less than the record which was equaled a year ago.

CORN. The national average yield of corn is forecast at 61.2 bushels an acre, about half a bushel short of the record set last year. The Illinois state average is forecast at 78 bushels an acre, one bushel more than last year's record.

SOYBEANS. There is as yet no official forecast of soybean yield per acre. But farmers of the nation expect to harvest 27.9 million acres, 2 percent more than last year. Soybeans look very good in the Corn Belt, but are grassy in some places in the South.

PASTURES. Pastures got off to a slow start, but improved remarkably in June. By July 1 the condition of the nation's pastures and ranges was two percentage points better than average and only one percentage point below a year before. About 80 percent of the nation had pasture that would rate good to excellent.

Exceptions were the ranges and pastures in the drouth areas that we mentioned before--in the Northeast, the South and the Southwest.

HAY. The national average yield of hay is estimated at 1.74 tons per acre. This is the same as last year and only half a bale less than the record yield made two years ago. The average yield for Illinois hay fields is 2.08 tons per acre, about the same as last year.

Altogether the picture is one of better than average crops and crop prospects in most parts of the nation.

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ILLINOIS FARMERS' OUTLOOK LETTER

CATTLE FEEDERS GET GOOD NEWS--AND BAD

URBANA, ILLINOIS JULY 25, 1962

Illinois cattle feeders got some good news, and some bad, in the quarterly report of cattle on feed.

The good news was that farmers in the north-central states were feeding 2 percent fewer cattle on July 1 this year than last. The bad news was that the big feedlots in the western states held 18 percent more cattle than last year.

Altogether the number in feedlots was estimated at 6,040,000 head, 4 percent more than a year earlier.

The total increase of 4 percent is not excessive. In fact, it is no more than normal. Furthermore, the prospective decrease in market supplies in the north-central states should tend to raise our prices relative to those in the West.

The bad news (for the corn-belt feeder) shown in the report of cattle on feed is that the Midwest is losing more ground to the commercial feedlots of California and other western states.

The division of cattle between steers and heifers is the same as it was a year ago--steers 71 percent and heifers 29 percent.

The steers in feedlots this summer average considerably lighter than those on feed a year ago. The reason is that there are fewer steers in the heaviest weight group and more in the lightest. The heaviest steers, those weighing over 1,100 pounds, now make up only 8 percent of the total compared with 13 percent a year ago. Steers weighing under 700 pounds are 21 percent of the total this year compared with only 16 percent a year ago. The middle-weight steers, between 700 and 1,100 pounds, made up 71 percent of the total in both years.

The heifers on feed this year are also lighter. Heifers weighing over 700 pounds make up only 56 percent of the total this year compared with 61 percent a year ago.

The smaller percentage of heavy cattle this year gives promise of moderate market supplies of fed cattle during the next 30 to 60 days.

Farmers indicated that they would market about the same number of fed cattle in this third quarter as they did in 1961. If they follow through with their plans, marketings of fed cattle probably will be moderately larger in the fourth quarter than they were last year.

Prices for fed cattle during the remainder of 1962 should be near those of a year earlier. This would make an average of about $25 for Choice steers at Chicago.

Right now this figure seems pessimistic. But prices in August, September and October have averaged under $25 in each of the past two years. In both years they rose strongly in November and December. And in each of the past five winters prices of Choice steers have averaged between $26 and $28 during January and February. If business holds up, prices of cattle may get back into that range next winter.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois
August 8, 1962

WHEAT MAY BE OUR MOST OVER-PRODUCED CROP

Of all farm products, wheat may be the most overproduced, or perhaps it is just overpriced. We use about 500 million bushels a year for human food. We produce nearly 2 1/2 times this amount. The average production in the five years, 1957-61, was 1,225 million bushels. Production this year is estimated at 1,050 million bushels.

Most of the wheat that is not needed for food in this country is exported. A little is fed to animals. If the wheat is exported it must be priced in line with prices of wheat from other countries, or given away under foreign aid programs. If it is fed, it must be priced competitively with corn, sorghum grains, barley and other feeds.

In the marketing year ended June 30 we shipped wheat to 60 nations and flour to 78 nations. We exported 606 million bushels of wheat, and flour from 107 million bushels more. Total exports were the equivalent of 713 million bushels, or 41 percent more than the amount that we used for food.

Of all the wheat and flour that was exported only a little more than one-fourth was sold for cash, while nearly three-fourths was distributed under foreign aid programs. Most of the cash buyers did not pay the full market price, but paid 50 to 75 cents a bushel less than the full market price. Uncle Sam made up the difference between the market price and the prices that the foreign buyers were willing to pay. This export subsidy made the cost of our wheat competitive with the cost of wheat offered by other countries.

While the United States is the biggest exporter of wheat, we supply only about 45 percent of the wheat that moves in international trade. Other major exporting countries are Canada, Australia, Argentina, France, and Russia.

No one knows exactly how much wheat is fed to livestock in this country. Usual estimates run from 40 million to 50 million bushels a year, or around 4 percent of our production. Most of the wheat that is fed to livestock is of poor quality and is not desirable for making into flour. More low-grade wheat would be used for feed if price supports were lower. Thirty years ago 10 to 20 percent of the wheat crop was fed to livestock.

On July 1 the carryover of old wheat in the U. S. was 1,304 million bushels, or 8 percent less than in 1961, but about the same as in 1960 and 1959. The national average support price is $2.00 a bushel, or 21 cents higher than last year. Recent prices of most kinds of wheat were near the effective support level.

In some markets hard wheat and white wheat was selling at about the support level, while soft red wheat was selling for less than the support price.

Some seasonal price increase is expected, but it may be less than normal, because prices are already high in relation to the support level.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois August 15, 1962

WILL IT PAY TO STORE 1962 CROP CORN?

T. A. Hieronymus
Department of Agricultural Economics

Farmers are now planning their storage and sales programs for the harvest period. Should they make an extra effort to put all of their corn away, or should they store the amount that their bins will conveniently hold and sell the rest?

Many producers, particularly those who are not in compliance with the feed-grain program, will produce more corn than they have room for. The yield indicated on August 1 for Illinois was 79 bushels, and production was indicated at 668 million bushels, up from 638 million in 1961.

Bids for new-crop delivery were about 93 cents in early August. This 27-cent discount from the loan is a good reason to hold corn. But the old-crop price was 98 cents, which casts doubt on a significant price increase during the season ahead. In early August 1961 the price was $1.03.

A record 658 million bushels of corn from the 1961 crop moved into the loan program. It appears that the carry-over will be reduced about 350 million bushels. A combination of these two things usually results in a price rise to about the loan. But this year the price has fallen more than 20 cents short.

The strength factors have been more than offset by huge sales by CCC. During the period from October 1, 1961, through August 3, 1962, CCC sold 867 million bushels. Of this amount 96 million were sold under special export programs, 603 million to recover cost of the feed-grain program, and 168 million that were "out of condition." Had the 168 million "out-of-condition" corn been applied against the feed-grain certificates, as was permissible, the price would have closely approached the loan.

The situation during the year ahead will be similar. The carry-over will probably be reduced by a substantial amount. In view of the low price this summer, the use of the loan will probably be larger (only 54 percent of the eligible corn was placed under loan and purchase agreement).

CCC will again sell a large amount. They will start the year with about 350 million bushels less with which to hammer prices down. If loan entries are 75 percent of the eligible corn, CCC will not have enough. But unless loan entries are this high, they will be able to do what they want to with the price. Will they again sell enough to hold the price down? This is not an appropriate question for an economist to try to answer.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois August 22, 1962

ASIA AS A MARKET FOR U. S. FARM PRODUCTS

South Asia with its huge population and short food supply appears to many to be the solution to our "agricultural surplus problem." Recently this view has been strengthened by large deliveries of agricultural surpluses to these countries under United States government aid programs and by Japan's recent economic growth.

As a member of a foreign trade seminar, I recently visited five countries of Asia. Our team, four state agricultural extension economists and a leader from the Foreign Agricultural Service, Washington, D. C., visited Hong Kong, the Philippines, India, Pakistan and Turkey. In each of these countries we went to villages, markets, processing plants, educational institutions, refugee resettlement projects, United States aid projects and government offices, and questioned those in charge.

From our study, we concluded that dollar trade with the countries is not imminent, and that aid programs have their limitations as well as advantages both to these countries and to the United States. We came to these conclusions because of basic social and economic problems these countries face. I shall comment on three.

TOO MANY PEOPLE FOR THEIR LAND RESOURCES. Nearly half the people of the world live in South Asia and the Far East. Most (75 to 90 %) are farmers, farms are small (mostly 5 acres or less), soils are low in fertility and climate is uncertain. Low productivity of animals and of man aggravates the situation.

As a result, farm incomes are barely enough to provide life's necessities, so little is left for fertilizers, equipment, education and savings. Since the economics of these countries are predominantly rural, there is a limited market for industrial goods.

LACK OF INDUSTRIALIZATION. The other leg of the problem is lack of development of mineral resources and industrialization, which is needed to provide jobs, to mechanize the economy and to earn foreign exchange. With help from other countries, industrialization has begun but will require years to develop.

ILLITERACY IS HIGH. The high degree of illiteracy in India and Pakistan (80% or more) is a serious impediment to the development of skills and general economic progress and to the stability of government. Time will be required to change attitudes toward education and training and to provide educational facilities and teachers.

The governments of these countries understand these problems. Their immediate goal is to step up the productivity of their people and their soils. They aim not only to be self-sufficient in foods, but to have export surpluses with which to earn badly needed foreign exchange to purchase equipment for industrialization.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois August 29, 1962

U. S. AID PROGRAMS IN ASIA

Farm exports hit a high of $5.0 billion in 1961, and 30 percent of them moved under U. S. government financing. Moreover, two-thirds of our wheat and half of our soybean oil exports moved under aid programs.

Three of the countries our extension team visited--India, Pakistan, and Turkey--are major "aid countries." In them we asked these questions: What kinds of aid are you receiving from the United States? From other countries? How is it helping you?

KINDS OF AID. Excluding military, aid is of three kinds: technical assistance, finances for development projects, and food and fibers.

Technical assistance projects, begun in 1951, aim to help people develop needed skills and improve their productivity. American counterpart experts and training programs for teachers in their home countries and in the United States are provided. University of Illinois staff members assist with India's educational program. Among their many accomplishments is the first land-grant university in India.

Development financing is for equipment and capital goods that are essential to their industrial development. Irrigation, electric power projects, transportation, and mining are examples. Finances are provided as grants and as loans.

Agricultural surpluses are given to foreign governments and relief agencies for relief feeding, sold to foreign governments on long-term credit and for their currencies, and exchanged for strategic materials. Much of the proceeds of a foreign currency sale is given or loaned to the government, or loaned to private business for use in developmental projects. This program, popularly

called "Food for Peace" and started in 1954, has provided a major share of U. S. aid to these countries. In India, for example, almost two-thirds of the $4.3 billion of U. S. assistance since 1951 has been in farm products.

AID FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. Other nations, both the "Free World" and the "Soviet Bloc" are providing aid to the developing countries of the Far East. Sources of aid to India from 1951 through 1961 were: "Free World," 75 percent; "Soviet Bloc," 12 percent; and international institutions, 13 percent. The U. S. contributed three-fourths of the "Free World's" share and 56 percent of the total.

BENEFITS OF U. S. AID. Although begun largely to contain communism and to find outlets for surplus farm products, U. S. aid programs are helping recipient countries achieve their own goals. These goals are to improve diets and become self-sufficient in food production, to improve the technical skills of people, to industrialize and create new jobs, and to stabilize prices and foreign exchange rates.

In brief, the aid countries view our farm surpluses as a "shove" to get their economies rolling. Once moving, they may buy U. S. farm products, but not necessarily the ones they are getting now.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

HOW MUCH WILL HOG PRODUCTION INCREASE NEXT YEAR?

Urbana, Illinois
Sept. 5, 1962

Farmers are asking, "Will there be a big increase in hog production in 1963?" It is a natural question to ask at this time of the year--before the breeding season for next year's spring pigs.

There is some basis for expecting a substantial increase in hog production. Supporters of this view point to the fact that hog prices have been good for 2 1/2 years. They also point to the favorable hog-corn ratio, which in recent weeks has been around 16.

Despite these facts, we expect only a moderate increase in hog production in 1963. Our reasons are as follows:

1. The "good" hog prices of the past 30 months have been around $16 to $18. At these prices producers with low costs can make good wages, but many farmers do not view these prices as "good."

2. The last two big increases in hog production came in 1959 and 1955--after prices had been well above $20 for several months. The prices of recent months have been far less attractive to producers.

3. The favorable hog-corn price ratio reported by the USDA is based on market prices for corn--usually at Chicago, where prices have been depressed by heavy sales of government grain. For farmers who participate in the government program, the important price to be considered is the support level, which is well above the market price in many areas. A hog-corn price ratio calculated by using the support level is much less favorable than one using the Chicago market price.

4. While corn has been cheaper in Illinois than it was in 1961, other states show smaller price declines or actual increases. For example, in July of this year the average price of corn was 5 cents higher in Nebraska than in Illinois, while a year before it was 5 cents lower.

5. The government price support and production control program for feed grains tends to push and keep the general farmer out of the livestock business. The big advantage in cutting back his acreage is the privilege of getting price support for his corn. He loses this advantage if he feeds his corn to hogs or other livestock.

Finally, we recall that economic conditions a year ago also seemed to be favorable for a substantial increase in hog production. But it now appears that farmers did not increase production this year; instead they are raising 1 percent fewer pigs than in 1961.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois Sept. 12, 1962

SOME CHANGES EXPECTED IN BEEF CATTLE SITUATION

It appears that there will be some moderate changes in the cattle situation during the next 12 months. Consumer demand for beef seems likely to increase a little. Marketings of cattle will probably increase at least as much as demand. Prices received by farmers for cattle may average about the same as they have in the past 12 months.

Prices of Choice steers at Chicago averaged about $26.25 in the 12 months ended with August. Over the same period, prices of Good grade steers averaged about $24.60.

Some increase in the demand for beef is expected in the next 12 months, but it may not be as much as in this past year. The nation was in a minor recession early in 1961, and there has been considerable improvement since that time. Unemployment, for example, has decreased from nearly 7 percent of the labor force to around 5 1/2 percent.

There has not been much improvement in the unemployment situation in recent months. In fact, unemployment increased from 5.3 percent in July to 5.8 percent in August. More persons were unemployed in August than at any time since last winter. Although the business situation may improve during coming months, the improvement seems likely to be less than that which occurred a year before.

A moderate increase in marketings of cattle seems scheduled for this fall and in 1963. Farmers and ranchers have built up their cattle herds from 91 million head in 1957 to 102 million head. The increase is 12 percent in five years. The number of beef cattle now on hand numbers about 73 million, or 23 percent more than five years ago. It appears that farmers and ranchers are producing 3 million more beef cattle than they are selling this year.

In previous cattle cycles, marketings began to increase in the third, fourth, and fifth years of the buildup. This is the fifth year, but this buildup has been slower than the previous ones.

The feed situation often controls the marketing of cattle, and it will do so to some extent this fall and in 1963. There is an abundance of feed in the Corn Belt, the central and northern Great Plains and the western states. Most southern states, however, have suffered from drought. They are expected to sell considerably more cattle this fall and winter than they have sold in recent years. In the areas where feed is especially abundant, it will cause some extra accumulation of cattle for sale next spring and summer.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois Sept. 19, 1962

DRY WEATHER IN LATE SUMMER CUTS CROP PROSPECTS

Dry weather after midsummer cut crop prospects in many parts of the country. In August, estimates dropped 2 percent for corn and 5 percent for soybeans.

On September 1, large drouthy areas ranged from Texas to Missouri and across the southern states to the Atlantic coast. Severe drouth also continued in the east, especially in Pennsylvania, New York and adjoining areas. The drouth in Missouri spread across the Mississippi River into southern and western Illinois. The east-central and northwestern parts of this state were more fortunate. They had good to excellent conditions on the first of the month.

PASTURES. Average pasture condition in Illinois was rated 73, far below the 89 listed for the year before. The national average for pastures and ranges was 72, also well below the 83 listed a year earlier.

You may remember that in 1961 crops and pastures were unusually good over all but one part of the nation. The unfortunate part was the Northern Plains (the Dakotas, Montana and adjoining areas), which suffered from extreme drouth. The Northern Plains have had an abundance of rain this year, too much in some cases.

CORN. On September 1 the U. S. corn crop was officially estimated at 3,485 million bushels, 4 percent less than last year. The Illinois crop, however, was listed at 651 million bushels, 4 percent more than in 1961. Indiana's estimate was 4 percent more than last year, 323 million bushels. Iowa's was about the same as last year at 744 million bushels.

Three important corn states are expected to have smaller crops than they had a year ago. Minnesota, with 265 million bushels, would have 18 percent less; Missouri, with 151 million bushels, 14 percent less; and Wisconsin, with 103 million bushels, would be off 14 percent. Nebraska's crop, estimated at 288 million bushels, would be up 3 percent from last year.

SOYBEANS. The U. S. soybean crop is estimated at 669 million bushels, down nearly 4 percent from a year ago. The Illinois crop, however, is expected to be 1 percent bigger, at 161 million bushels. Iowa and Indiana reported that their crops would equal those of 1961, when Iowa had 98 million bushels and Indiana 77 million bushels.

SORGHUM GRAIN. The U. S. production of sorghum grain is estimated at 487 million bushels, 1 percent more than last year. Texas, the biggest producer, reported an expected 207 million bushels, 10 percent less than in 1961.

OTHER CROPS. The 1962 barley crop is estimated at 431 million bushels, up 10 percent from 1961. The oat crop is listed at 1,028 million bushels, up 1 percent. Wheat production is reported to be 1,196 million bushels, up 11 percent.

U. S. hay production is estimated at 116 million tons, the same as in 1961. The Illinois hay crop is listed at 4.2 million tons, 2 percent above last year.

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Cooperative Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois
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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois
Sept. 26, 1962

HOG MARKET ENTERS CRITICAL STAGE

Prospects Good for 1963

The quarterly Pig Crop Report issued by the USDA in September brought good news for everyone concerned--farmers, processors and consumers. The report, which covered 10 leading hog-producing states, indicated that farmers increased summer sow farrowings by 4 percent and planned to make the same increase in fall and winter farrowings.

If these plans materialize, there will be an abundant, but not excessive, supply of pork for another 12 months. Part of the expected increase in pork supplies will be offset by growing consumer demand. Population is up 1 2/3 percent from a year ago, and consumer buying power is 5 percent greater. Prices received by farmers should remain at profitable levels through most of next year.

CRITICAL PERIOD JUST AHEAD. The USDA report showed that on September 1 farmers had 23,525,000 hogs 3 to 6 months old, 2 percent below the year before. But unusual conditions prevented normal marketings in September. Consequently, the number of hogs remaining for market in the fourth quarter may be at least as large as it was a year ago. Furthermore, average weights may be considerably above normal.

There will be two other price-depressing forces: (1) The supply of broilers soon will be larger than it was the year before, and (2) cattle marketings may increase more than usual when the grazing season comes to an end.

We often get our lowest hog prices in November, especially in years like this one--when there has not been an excessive increase in production. Thus hog prices, having held up better than usual in August and September, may break more than usual in October and November. It may be well to remember that the average price of barrows and gilts at 8 midwest terminal markets in the last quarter of 1961 was $16.50 a hundred pounds.

THE WINTER MARKET. The number of hogs under 3 months of age on farms in the 10 states on September 1 was listed as 16,963,000 head, 4 percent more than the year before. Thus prices during January-February-March should not be far from those received last winter, when the 3-month average for barrows and gilts at 8 midwest markets was $16.60 a hundred pounds.

THE SPRING MARKET. Sows intended for farrowing in September-October-November total 2,245,000 head, up 4 percent from a year ago. The change in number of pigs saved may be slightly more or less than the planned change in the number of sows farrowing. Pigs from the September-October-November farrowings will be marketed mostly in April, May and June of next year. Prices should not differ much from this year, when the average for barrows and gilts at 8 markets was $16.06.

NEXT SUMMER. Reports from the 10 states indicate that farmers plan to have 1,912,000 sows farrow during the winter quarter. This would be an increase of 4 percent from a year before. Pigs from these litters would be ready for market in the third quarter of next year, July-August-September. If winter farrowings are about as now indicated, market prices of hogs next summer should not be far from those of the last 3 months. But we would not expect prices to hold up as well in September of next year as they did this past month.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois
Oct. 3, 1962

SOYBEAN SITUATION AND PRICE PROSPECTS

"Will the price of soybeans go up as it did two years ago?"

This question was recently put to us by a farmer. He had read that China was having poor crops again and believed that it might set off another run on soybeans.

The present situation is like that of two years ago in another way: The crop we are harvesting is smaller than that of the previous year.

But there are important differences. Prices of beans have recently been about 25 cents a bushel higher than they were two years ago, and the supply in the United States is up 21 percent. World markets are already adjusted to the poor crops in China, whereas in the fall of 1960 that adjustment was still ahead.

The prospective supply of soybeans is about 5 percent larger than that of the past year. The new crop is smaller, but the difference is more than offset by a larger carryover.

In September the new crop was estimated at 669 million bushels. Last December the 1961 crop was estimated at 693 million bushels, but this figure may be revised downward.

The carryover of old beans on October 1 was around 50 or 60 million bushels compared with only 6 million last fall.

The demand for soybean meal is enormous, but there is lots of competition for the oil. Several things have combined to provide the strong demand for soybean meal: (1) We have a record number of cattle to feed, and prices have been high. (2) Hog prices have been good, and decreased use of pastures has required increased use of soybean meal. (3) Foreign demand has been strong, exports having exceeded one million tons in the past 12 months, or nearly three quarters

more than the year before. Finally, (4) broiler production has been almost as great this year as in 1961, and prices have been higher.

The price of soybean oil has recently been around 8 cents a pound, down from 10 1/2 cents a year before. The national average price support level for the 1962 crop is $2.25 a bushel, 5 cents less than for the 1961 crop. Farmers with clean, dry beans will get a premium of 4 to 6 cents a bushel.

Prices of soybeans seem likely to average about 5 cents lower next year than in the past 12 months. The CCC owns about 40 million bushels, and sales of these beans may keep prices from rising much above the support level. We expect that the CCC sale price may be about the equivalent of the support level plus a nickel a bushel.

The carryover of beans next fall seems likely to be 6 to 10 percent of the crop, or 40 to 65 million bushels.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois Oct. 10, 1962

PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS GAIN IN SEPTEMBER

Costs Reach Record High

The USDA monthly report of prices received and paid by farmers always contains many facts of importance to farmers. Here are some of the important items from the report for September, and some comparisons with figures for previous periods.

Average prices of U. S. farm products went up 2 1/2 percent from August to September. The rise carried the index of prices received by farmers to 250 (1910-14 = 100), the highest level reached by farm prices since September 1958.

Farm costs--or, rather, the index of prices paid, interest, taxes and farm wage rates--went up less than 1 percent from August to September. This small rise, however, lifted the index to 307. At this level it equaled the previous record high for costs set last April. (This index is sometimes called the parity index.)

The rise in the index of prices received by farmers carried the parity ratio to 81, up from 78 last June. This figure, which is a popular indicator of farm prosperity, shows the percentage that market prices are of legal parity prices. It has fluctuated in a narrow range of 78 to 81 for three years. In the 10 years of the 1950s, the parity ratio averaged 81, the same as in September. (The parity ratio is calculated by dividing the index of prices received by the parity index and multiplying by 100.)

Prices for Corn

The average price received by Illinois farmers for corn in September was $1.00 a bushel. This was 2 cents less than a year before and 6 cents less than in September 1960.

Illinois farmers will be interested in comparing their prices with those received by farmers in other states. Farmers in Nebraska received $1.04 for corn in September this year. This price was 3 cents more than last year and 4 cents more than two years before.

It is very unusual for the price of corn to be higher in Nebraska than in Illinois. In fact, prices for corn, and most other farm products, are usually lower in Nebraska and other states in the Great Plains than in Illinois.

Compared with two years ago, the price of corn in September was down 6 cents in Illinois, 5 cents in Indiana, 3 cents in Ohio and 2 cents in Iowa. By contrast, the price of corn was up 1 cent in Missouri, 4 cents in Nebraska and 7 cents in Wisconsin.

What has caused this unusual price pattern this year? It is probably caused by the heavy sales by the government of corn in Chicago and other markets where corn produced by Illinois farmers is usually sold.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois Oct. 17, 1962

CROP PROSPECTS IMPROVE DURING SEPTEMBER

The late summer brought much-needed rains to previously dry areas of the nation. The rains helped pastures and corn, soybeans and other late-harvested crops.

This year now seems to have been about normal for crop production in the nation as a whole. Some areas, however, suffered from extreme drouth, while others enjoyed better than average growing conditions.

At the beginning of October, the largest and most severe drouth area was in the eastern states, particularly in New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and adjoining areas. Less intensive drouth covered parts of most of the southern states from the Carolinas westward across Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and southern Texas. Another dry area was centered over Missouri and most of Illinois except for a few counties along the eastern side of the state.

The average condition of U. S. pastures on October 1 was rated 79 compared with 83 last year and 71 for the 10 years 1951-60. Pasture condition in Illinois was listed at 73 compared with 87 last year and 74 for the 10-year average.

Total production of feed grains is now estimated at 139 million tons, which is about 1/2 of 1 percent less than was produced in 1961.

CORN. The 1962 U. S. corn crop is estimated at 3,312 million bushels, 3 percent less than last year. The average yield is estimated at 61.1 bushels per acre compared with 61.0 bushels in 1961. The crop matured one to three weeks earlier than usual in most parts of the corn belt. But it matured later than usual in some areas, particularly Minnesota, where heavy rains delayed planting at the normal time.

The Illinois corn crop is now listed at 651 million bushels, up 2 percent from a year ago. Other states with larger crops than last year are South Dakota, Nebraska and Indiana. States with smaller crops are Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

SORGHUM GRAIN. Production of sorghum grain is estimated at 491 million bushels, 2 percent more than last year but 21 percent less than the record set two years ago. The three important sorghum grain states are Texas, Kansas and Nebraska. Texas has 207 million bushels, 10 percent less than last year. Kansas has 121 million bushels, 8 percent more than in 1961, while Nebraska has 90 million bushels, 43 percent more than in 1961.

HAY. Production is estimated at 117 million tons, a few bales more than last year. The Illinois crop totals about 1 percent less than last year. Much of the hay made during the late summer was of unusually good quality.

SOYBEANS. Production is estimated at 672 million bushels, just 3 percent below the 1961 crop. The Illinois crop is estimated at 161 million bushels, nearly 2 percent more than in 1961. Average yield for the state is listed at 28.5 bushels, the same as last year.

MILK. Production in September was estimated at 9,683 million pounds, 1 percent more than in 1961 but only 4 percent more than the 10-year 1951-60 average for the month.

EGGS. Production in September was estimated at 4,817 million, 2 percent more than a year earlier.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois Oct. 24, 1962

CATTLE ON FEED INCREASE 8 PERCENT FROM LAST FALL

Big Gain Is In West Again

Farmers are getting 8 percent more steaks and beef roasts ready for the nation's tables this fall than last. According to the quarterly report of cattle and calves on feed issued by the USDA in October, 6,133,000 head of cattle and calves were being fattened for market in the 28 major feeding states on October 1. This number was 8 percent more than were on feed a year ago.

Almost all of the increase in cattle feeding is in the western states. The 11 western states had 1,996,000 head in feed lots, 19 percent more than on October 1 last year. The 12 north central states had 3,634,000 head on feed, only 1 percent more. Illinois farmers were feeding 437,000 head, up 4 percent.

Fewer Heavy Cattle. Although there is a substantial increase in the total number of cattle in feed lots, the number likely to be available for market before Janucry 1 may be no greater than lcst year. At least there are fewer heavy cattle on feed than there were a year ago.

The number of cattle weighing over 1,100 pounds was estimated at 282,000 head, down 21 percent. The number from 900 to 1,100 pounds was estimated at 1,738,000 head, 4 percent less.

The number weighing from 700 to 900 pounds was listed at 2,304,000 head, 13 percent more; those from 500 to 700 pounds, 1,270,000 head, up 18 percent; and those under 500 pounds, 539,000 head, up 36 percent.

The increase in cattle on feed was about equally divided between steers and heifers.

The cattle now being fattened for slaughter were placed in feed lots somewhat later than in 1961. The number on feed more than six months on October 1 was listed at 1,225,000 head, only 3 percent more than last year. But the number on feed three to six months was 1,401,000 head, up 6 percent, while the number on feed less than three months totaled 3,507,000 head, up 11 percent.

Later Marketing. Of the cattle on hand October 1, farmers planned to sell 3,346,000 head before January 1. This would be only 2 percent more than in the same quarter last year. These intentions point to comparatively heavy market receipts during January, February and March.

Marketings of hogs are expected to be about 3 to 5 percent larger than last winter. We may also have more chicken than a year earlier (but not so much turkey).

The biggest uncertainty in the outlook is the business situation and consumer demand for beef. The recent developments in the international situation may have far-reaching effects on the cattle market. They can affect not only the demand for beef, but also farmers' marketing plans.

Price trends during the next six months now appear likely to be opposite those of a year ago, when the monthly average price of Choice steers at Chicago increased from $24.50 in October to nearly $27.50 in April.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois Nov. 7, 1962

HOG PRICES HAVE BEEN UNUSUALLY STEADY

Little Change Is Expected

The price of hogs has been good and remarkably steady for 32 months. More of the same is expected this winter and through next summer.

Monthly average prices have ranged between $16 and $18 most of the time since March 1959. That was for barrows and gilts at midwest terminal markets. At the same time the average price of corn has been around $1 a bushel at local markets. With these prices, average and better farmers have made good profits.

In most recent years, seasonal swings in prices have been relatively small and irregular. The largest change in the past seven years was three years ago, in 1959-60. Prices dropped from $16 per 100 pounds in the early summer to $12 in December and then climbed back up to $16 by April. This sharp price dip was not a true seasonal decline. It was caused by an increase of 10 percent in the spring pig crop. There was no corresponding increase in the fall pig crop, so prices quickly recovered.

Even including the dip of 1959-60, the average decline in hog prices in the fall has been small. July has had the highest average price, $18.38; November has had the lowest average, $16. The difference is only $2.38, or 13 percent.

The average price rise from November to the winter months has been very small, only $.50 to $1, but larger increases occurred three times--in the winters of 1957, 1958 and 1960. In one year hog prices went down about $3 from fall to winter. That was in 1959-60, when over a period of 17 months prices skidded from $23 to $12.

Hog prices last year averaged $16 in November and around $17 in December, January and February. We may see similar prices again this winter. Market supplies of hogs are expected to be

up 3 to 5 percent from a year before. There won't be so much competition from turkey, but there may be more beef and chicken. Consumer demand is not increasing as strongly as it was a year ago.

Looking further ahead, into the spring and the summer, we expect hog marketings to be around 4 percent over 1962 levels. We also expect supplies of beef to be slightly larger, and supplies of broilers also could be up. The level of consumer demand is uncertain, but it seems likely to be a little stronger.

On balance, it seems doubtful that prices of hogs will equal those of this past summer, when barrows and gilts at terminal markets averaged around $18.50 in July, August and September. Prices seems to be high enough to make some profit, but not high enough to cause over-expansion.

There is some risk in hog production, but that is what makes it pay better than some other farm enterprises.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois Nov. 14, 1962

WHAT PRICE FOR 1962 CORN CROP?

Sales by CCC to Set Prices

Many Illinois farmers have the best corn crop that they have ever produced. What price can they expect to get for it?

Many farmers who produce corn primarily for sale will "sell" most of it to the government by taking out price support loans or purchase agreements. They can get around $1.20 a bushel for the corn that is eligible for price support.

But what price can be expected for corn that is to be sold on the open market? It will be controlled by the sales of surplus corn that is owned by the government and, perhaps, by sales of corn that is or will be sealed on farms under price support programs.

The USDA has announced its sales policy for this 1962-63 marketing year. In early October the Department said that "...Commodity Credit Corporation-owned corn representing payment-in-kind certificates earned by producers for diverting acreage under the 1962 feed grain program will now be made available for purchase as justified by market conditions, and at market prices but not below the levels which prevailed generally at harvest time in 1960 and 1961.

"These offerings, along with the new crop and carry-in stocks, will ensure ample supplies for all needs and reasonable price stability for feed users and consumers. Proceeds from the sales will carry out the intent of the feed grain law to finance the adjustment programs insofar as practical through payments in kind from CCC holdings.

"The 1962-63 CCC corn sales program is designed to result in a seasonal movement of feed grain prices relative to the harvest-time price, similar to those of recent years, and to carry out other objectives announced in the fall of 1961."

This statement of policy is no doubt specific enough for official purposes. But it still leaves prospective prices in a sort of twilight zone.

We do not know, for example, what might be "justified by market conditions." The government will sell at "market prices," but in selling nearly one billion dollars' worth of feed grains, the government will make those market prices.

And what were prices of corn at harvest time in 1960 and 1961? In 1960 the average prices received by Illinois farmers were 97 cents a bushel in October, 82 cents in November and 92 cents in December. In 1961 the comparable prices were $1.00, 91 cents and 94 cents. And at Chicago in 1960 the average price of No. 3 yellow corn was $1.06 in October, 96 cents in November and $1.02 in December. In 1961 the Chicago prices were $1.09 in October, $1.10 in November and $1.08 in December.

Over the past five years the average Illinois farm price rose from a low of 93 cents in November to a high of $1.12 in May. At Chicago the five-year average price of No. 3 yellow corn went up from $1.09 in November to $1.22 in May.

Last year was an exception, as heavy sales by the government drove prices down from $1.10 in November to $1.07 in February. The high for the year was in May at $1.15.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

MOST ILLINOIS FARMERS HAD A GOOD YEAR IN 1962

Livestock Prices Were Good and Crop Yields High

Urbana, Illinois
Nov. 21, 1962

Most Illinois farmers are having a good year in 1962. Livestock prices have been favorable. Crop yields were generally at or near record levels in all areas except for a few counties in southern Illinois.

About 80 percent of Illinois farmers' income comes from four products--cattle, hogs, corn and soybeans. About 12 percent more comes from milk and wheat. Returns from most of these products were good in 1962.

Beef Cattle. Sales of cattle and calves produced 22 percent of the cash received from marketing Illinois farm products in 1961. Prices of cattle rose strongly from mid-1961 to September of this year--about 34 percent in 14 months. They have held up well since September. The average price of Choice steers at Chicago for the year to mid-November was about $27.50 a hundred pounds, better than any yearly average since 1959. Prices for all of 1962 may be the best in ten years.

The strong prices for cattle this year are not due to scarcity. Consumers are getting enough beef to provide about 89 pounds per person. This is a new record and 40 percent more than was available ten years ago. Ranchers and farmers are producing cattle slightly faster than they are being sold. When sales catch up with production, possibly in 1963, cattle prices are expected to decline moderately.

Hogs. Sales of hogs brought in 21 percent of the cash received for Illinois farm products in 1961. Prices have been good for nearly three years. They averaged about $17 a hundred pounds at terminal markets during this year to mid-November. Since June, monthly averages have been at the best levels in four years. Reports from farmers point to only a very moderate increase in hog production in 1963. Consequently, prices and profits are expected to remain at favorable levels for another year.

Corn. Corn sales produced 19 percent of total receipts from Illinois farm products last year. Average yield for the 1962 crop is officially estimated at 82 bushels per acre, 7 percent more than the record set last year and 23 percent more than the five-year 1956-60 average. Market prices have averaged nearly $1 a bushel so far this year, about the same as in recent years. The price support level was $1.20 a bushel for both 1961 and 1962 crops, the highest since the 1958 crop was supported at $1.36.

Soybeans. In 1961 soybeans accounted for 17 percent of Illinois farmers' receipts from marketings. The 1962 crop is estimated at 28.5 bushels per acre, the same as the record set in 1956 and equaled last year. Prices received by farmers for the 1961 crop averaged nearly the support of $2.30 a bushel, and prices for the 1962 crop are almost as good.

Dairy. Sales of milk produce 7 percent of Illinois farm income. Both prices and production have been fairly well stabilized in recent years, and little change is in sight for 1963.

Wheat. Illinois farmers get 5 percent of their income from wheat. Average yield for the 1962 crop was 32 bushels per acre, 11 percent less than in 1961 but 9 percent more than the five-year average. Prices received for the 1962 crop should be the best in several years. The support level of $2 a bushel is about 20¢ over levels of the four previous years.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois Nov. 28, 1962

LAMB PRICES AND PROSPECTS IMPROVE

Market Supplies Are Declining

Lamb prices have improved considerably in the past 12 months. Levels are expected to range higher in 1963 than in 1962. The price improvement this year resulted largely from a slight reduction in market supplies. Some further cut in marketings is likely next year.

Ranchers and farmers have been selling off their flocks for three years. Sheep and lamb numbers have been reduced from 33.2 million head three years ago to less than 30.5 million. Heavy slaughter from the fall of 1960 to the spring of 1962 depressed market values. Average monthly prices received by farmers for lambs during this period ranged from $15 to $17 a hundred pounds.

Marketings dipped sharply in the second quarter of this year, and average prices received by farmers rose to $19.50 in June. This was the average price that farmers received for all lambs. Prices for Choice lambs at terminal markets were considerably higher.

Farmers increased their sales of lambs in the third quarter (July, August and September). Prices trended downward after June but remained well above those of a year earlier.

Seasonal changes in lamb prices during the past 15 months have been about normal. Prices reached a low of $15.10 in November, rose to $19.50 in June and declined again this summer and early fall.

Market supplies of lambs in prospect for this winter, and for all of 1963, are slightly smaller than those available this year (1962). The 1962 lamb crop is estimated at only 20,358,000 head, about 5 percent less than in the two previous years. Most of this decrease was in the late crop, from which we get the biggest share of lambs for fall and winter feeding. Slaughter since July 1 has been about the same as it was a year earlier. Thus a larger share of the year's lamb crop has been marketed than at this time last year.

The USDA estimates that an average of only about 4.5 pounds of lamb and mutton will be available for each person in 1963. This would be 10 percent less than the 5.0 to 5.1 pounds that has been available in 1962. The 4.5 pounds of lamb per person expected in 1963 would be the smallest supply since 1958 and 1957, when it was only 4.2 pounds. We had 4.8 pounds in 1959 and 1960 and 5.1 pounds in 1961. The 5.1 pounds last year was the biggest supply since 1948.

There will be moderately heavy competition from other meats this winter. The supply of broilers will be 20 to 25 percent larger than in 1962. Supplies of beef and pork promise to be up around 3 to 5 percent.

Consumer demand--buying power--now appears likely to strengthen slightly in 1963, at least in the first half of the year. Population is up 1 2/3 percent, and consumer incomes are running about 5 percent larger than they were a year ago.

Supplies of feeder lambs are comparatively small as a result of the small late lamb crop and the good proportion of lambs that are heavy enough for slaughter as they come off the ranges.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois
Dec. 5, 1962

ILLINOIS DAIRYMEN GET $13,000,000 MILK CHECK

Costs of Price Support Greatly Reduced

Illinois dairymen received about $13,000,000 in milk checks each month in 1962. Income from dairying seems likely to hold at about the same level in 1963.

The prospect of compulsory production controls, which were strongly urged on farmers this past year, seems to have diminished. As most dairymen know, the price of milk is supported by the government. It is supported indirectly, through purchases of butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk.

Government buying prices are 57 3/4 to 58 3/4 cents a pound for Grade A butter, depending on location; 34.6 cents a pound for Cheddar cheese; and 14.4 cents a pound for nonfat dry milk. These prices are intended to hold the yearly average price of milk used for manufacturing at $3.11 a hundred pounds or higher.

Technically, only the price of milk used for manufacturing is supported. But prices of milk for fluid consumption are always higher than the price of milk for manufacturing, so the government program provides indirect price support for all milk.

The government has been supporting milk prices for many years. Costs have not been excessive when support prices were close to free-market levels. But the program has run into trouble twice in the past 10 years--in 1953 and again in 1961. In both instances the trouble came after the price support level had been raised substantially above $3.00.

On April 1, 1951, the support level was raised from $3.07 to $3.60. A year later it was raised to $3.85. Soon 9 percent of all milk produced was being made into butter and cheese for sale to Uncle Sam. There were many complaints about the high costs of the program.

When the support level for milk was reduced to $3.74 in 1953 and to $3.15 in 1954, purchases for price support dropped to 4 percent. With a rise to $3.25 in 1956, government spending

for price support soon started to increase. Purchases of butter and cheese represented 5.5 percent of all milk produced in the marketing year beginning April 1, 1957.

The support was reduced to $3.06 on April 1, 1958. Purchases dropped to 3.0 percent the first year and to 2.8 percent the second. When the level was raised to $3.22 in September 1960, and to $3.40 in March 1961, government purchases in the following 12 months represented 8.9 percent of all milk produced and required an outlay of around $500,000,000.

The price support was cut back to $3.11 on April 1, 1962. Government purchases continued at a high level for a few months but have been greatly reduced recently. In the week ended November 28, only 1,500,000 pounds of butter were purchased, 2/3 less than the year before. And the government sold 247,000 pounds of cheese where it had bought 17,400,000 pounds the year before.

These recent developments give us reason to believe that present price levels can be maintained without resort to compulsory production controls.

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Cooperative Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperating, Urbana, Illinois

Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois
Dec. 12, 1962

SOYBEAN PRICES TO BE CONTROLLED BY GOVERNMENT SALES

Last summer, long before soybean harvest, one of my colleagues wrote a short press release to the effect that it would probably pay to store soybeans this year. He noted that prices then offered for the new crop were below the effective price support level. He reasoned that farmers would put enough beans under price support to lift the market price above the support level.

The forecast was a reasonably successful one. Prices of soybeans did go up, above the support level. Yet this forecast may have misled some people--because it was used in some publications long after its useful life had expired.

The point is that economic conditions are constantly changing so that price prospects and plans based on them often get out of date faster than women's dresses.

Now let's review some of the basic facts of the soybean situation.

Background. The soybean industry has grown very rapidly. Production and use have more than doubled in the past 10 years. New records are almost as regular as New Year's Eve. But 1959 and 1960 were exceptions. Neither year produced a record crop. But domestic use and export demand continued to increase. Storage stocks shrank. There were not enough beans to fill all orders at the prevailing prices. So prices went up sharply during the 1960-61 marketing year.

Soybean production got back to normal in 1961--farmers produced a record crop. And prices fluctuated around the support level of $2.30 a bushel.

In 1962 farmers produced 669 million bushels of soybeans, according to the official estimate that was made in November. This was 30 million bushels less than the record crop of 1961. But the carryover of old beans on October 1 was 58 million bushels, compared with only 6 million carried over in the fall of 1961. Thus we have for this marketing year a total supply of 727 million bushels,

or 28 million more than in the previous year. (These official figures may underestimate the increase in the supply of beans actually available for sale. This is because field losses were much less this year than in 1961.) The available supply of soybeans seems likely to provide for all domestic and export needs--with 50 to 70 million bushels left over next fall.

The national average price support level is $2.25 a bushel, 5 cents less than last year. The effective support level in most Illinois counties is several cents above the national average.

Sales of government-owned soybeans are expected to keep prices from rising much above the local loan values. On October 1 the CCC had control of about 51 million bushels of soybeans. Price support loans on 1962 crop beans will mature on May 31. The government has announced minimum resale prices that are equal to six or eight cents more than the present price support levels in the counties. That is, whenever prices paid to farmers are six to eight cents over the effective local support level, it may be cheaper for buyers to get beans from government stocks.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois
Dec. 19, 1962

OUTLOOK FOR EGGS AND POULTRY

Most poultrymen had a fairly good year in 1962. For 1963 the outlook is about like this: eggs, not much change from the year before; turkeys, average prices 1 or 2 cents lower than in 1962; broilers, prices in the first quarter down about 2 cents from last year.

This forecast is based on a recent report of the Poultry Survey Committee, which is made up of economists from private industry, the USDA and universities.

Eggs. The nation's laying flock is estimated to be 1 percent smaller than it was a year ago. And the average age of the hens is slightly older. Thus egg production will be no greater, and maybe slightly less, in the first three quarters of the year than in 1962.

Consumer demand for eggs holds about steady from year to year. The increase in population is offset by a diminishing desire for eggs.

Prices received by Illinois farmers for eggs may average about 27 cents a dozen in the first three quarters of 1963. The winter average may be around 29 cents, the spring average 26 cents and the summer price about 27 cents a dozen.

Prices will vary widely over the state, being 5 to 10 cents higher in the northeastern counties (near Chicago) than in the southeastern and the western counties.

Broilers. Market supplies in prospect for the winter quarter are 12 to 15 percent larger than those of a year ago. About one-third of this increase can be offset by growing demand, but the remainder will depress prices.

Broiler hatchery supply flocks apparently are 5 to 10 percent smaller than they were a year ago. But this may not prevent an increase of up to 5 percent in the production of broilers for sale in the spring quarter.

Prices received for broilers by Illinois farmers seem likely to fluctuate around 14 cents most of the time in the first half of 1963.

Turkeys. The carryover of turkeys on January 1 is indicated to be smaller than the 263 million pounds carried over the year before, but larger than in any other year. Turkey economists look for farmers to increase production by at least 7 percent and maybe 10 percent or more. If the increase in production is only 7 to 10 percent, they figure that prices will be 1 to 2 cents lower next fall than they have been in recent months. This would mean an average price to Illinois producers of 21 to 22 cents a pound.

Feed Costs. Costs of feed may be 3 to 5 percent higher in 1963 than in 1962. Prices for corn and most high-protein feeds are up from last year, and farmers are feeding more of almost every kind of livestock and poultry than they were a year ago.

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Illinois Farmers' Outlook Letter

Urbana, Illinois
Dec. 26, 1962

FARMERS' INCOMES GROW TWICE AS FAST AS INCOMES OF OTHERS

Surprising as it may be, the incomes of farm people have increased much faster than the incomes of non-farm people in recent years. This is contrary to much popular opinion, but it is what the official figures show.

According to the USDA, the average incomes of non-farm people increased 17 percent from 1955 to 1961. During the same six years, the average income of people living on farms went up 43 percent. Thus the per capita income of farm people went up more than twice as fast as the average income of other people.

Admittedly, average income figures of this kind, particularly those applying to all people living on "farms," can be highly misleading. But if they have any value at all, it should be for measuring changes over a number of years, as we have done.

The rise in farmers' incomes was not a one- or two-year development. On the contrary, the incomes of people living on farms went up in five of the six years. The exception was 1959, when farmers' incomes declined.

Final official figures for 1962 are not yet available, but it appears that the incomes of people living on farms grew at least as fast as the incomes of other people. Farmers' incomes went up about 4 percent in 1962, while other incomes rose about 3 percent.

These figures do not mean that farmers' income problems have been solved. But they do show that substantial improvement has been made since 1955. That year seems to have been a turning point. By about that time the distortions in the price structure caused by the Korean War had been ironed out. Farm prices had resumed a nearly normal relationship to operating costs and marketing expenses, making it possible for farmers to gain a share of the increase in national income.

These developments are closely in line with the old-fashioned economic principles that some of us were taught years ago. We were taught that wartime inflation is caused by the creation and spending of large amounts of new money. This money is paid out mostly to workers, who spend it for food and other products. Farmers cannot increase output quickly, so prices of farm products are pushed up rapidly. Wage rates, marketing expenses and costs of farm equipment and supplies rise more slowly than prices of farm products, giving farmers a temporary advantage, such as they had in World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

When the war ends, the flow of new money stops, cutting back the demand for food. But wage rates, and consequently marketing margins and costs of farm equipment and supplies, continue to rise to "catch up" with prices. This process takes something like four or five years. After this readjustment in the price structure has been completed, farmers' incomes can improve--as they have done since 1955.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 32 January 1, 1962

THE 1961 FEDERAL HOG CHOLERA LAW

H. W. Hannah

A National Hog Cholera Eradication Program has been set in motion by Senate Bill 1908, which provides...

"That in order to safeguard the health of the swine herds of the Nation, to prevent the spread of hog cholera, to decrease substantially the estimated $50,000,000 annual loss from hog cholera, to expand export markets for pork and pork products now restricted on account of hog cholera, and to otherwise protect the public interest, the Secretary of Agriculture is hereby directed (1) to initiate a national hog cholera eradication program in cooperation with the several states (2) to prohibit or restrict the interstate movement of virulent hog cholera virus or other hog cholera virus to the extent he determines necessary in order to effectuate such eradication program.

"The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed to establish an advisory committee composed of eleven members selected from representatives of the swine and related industries, State and local government agencies, professional and scientific groups, and the general public, and one member selected from the officers and employees of the Department of Agriculture who shall serve as chairman of the Committee.

"It is the function of the Committee to advise the Secretary with respect to the initiation of the national hog cholera eradication program and with respect to the development of plans and procedures for carrying out the program."

The main purposes of the program are to:

1. Eliminate the use of virulent hog cholera virus (40 states now have laws prohibiting its use).

2. Cooperate with the states and other agencies in stepping up activity, particularly state activity, aimed at eradicating hog cholera. Many states have extensive laws on hog cholera, and during the past few years others have been added--especially feeder swine dealer licensing laws and laws further restricting movement of diseased swine.

The program being put into operation under this federal law will emphasize such approaches as these, as outlined by the Committee on the National Eradication of Hog Cholera of the United States Livestock Sanitary Association:

1. An intensified educational program.

2. Accelerated vaccination program.

3. Further control of swine movement, both interstate and intrastate (feeder swine dealer licensing laws, for example).

4. Identification of treated swine.

5. More complete vaccination reports.

6. More stringent requirements for reporting the existence of the disease.

7. More realistic indemnity provisions.

8. Improvement of laws, regulations and enforcement having to do with quarantine, disposal of carcasses, disinfection of premises and surveillance of stockyards and other concentration points.



CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 33 January 15, 1961

MORE MINIMUM WAGE EXEMPTIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

By N. G. P. Krausz

The Federal Wage-Hour Law was amended in 1961. This law generally applies to employees who are engaged in interstate commerce or are producing goods for interstate commerce. Workers engaged in agricultural production and certain employees in the processing of agricultural products have always been exempt from the law. The amendment extends the law to cover employees in certain large businesses and adds several exemptions for agricultural employees.

Basically the law provides for a minimum wage of $1.15 for two years from September 3, 1961, and $1.25 thereafter for those who are previously covered. They must be paid overtime compensation at not less than one and one-half times their regular rates of pay for hours worked over 40 in any work week. A minimum wage schedule for workers newly brought under the act is as follows: Beginning September 3, 1961, for two years, $1.00 an hour for all hours worked (no overtime pay required); then $1.00 and overtime after 44 hours a week for one year; then $1.15 an hour and overtime after 42 hours a week for one year; and thereafter $1.25 an hour and overtime for over 40 hours a week.

The following agricultural exemptions were added to the wage and overtime provision:

1. Employees in agriculture who also perform certain livestock auction operations in which the employer is engaged as an adjunct to the raising of

livestock. In order to be exempted, the employee must be primarily employed in agriculture, and he must be paid the minimum wage for his work in livestock auction operations.

2. Employees employed within the "area of production" by a country elevator, if not more than five employees are employed, even though the establishment sells products and services used in the operation of a farm.

3. Employees engaged in ginning cotton for market in any place of employment located in a county where cotton is grown in commercial quantities.

4. Employees of retail or service establishments which are primarily engaged in selling autos, trucks or farm implements.

5. Farm workers employed in growing and harvesting of shade-grown tobacco who are engaged in processing such tobacco, prior to the stemming process, for use as cigar wrapper tobacco.

6. Any employees engaged in transporting workers to harvest fruits or vegetables or transporting the fruits or vegetables from the farm to the place of first processing or first marketing within the state.

Another part of the amendment provides for a study by the Secretary of Labor of the present complicated exemptions for handling and processing agricultural products, and he is to make a report with recommendations to the Congress in January, 1962.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 34 February 1, 1962

MEXICAN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

By A. R. Allen

Public Law 87-345, enacted by the last session of Congress and approved October 3, 1961, extended the term of the federal program relating to Mexican agricultural workers to December 31, 1963, and made certain changes in the previous law.

In 1951 the Congress approved Public Law 78 (82nd Congress), which spelled out the rules to be followed in this program of admitting Mexicans for temporary employment in U. S. agriculture, although such persons had been admitted during and after World War II under various previous authorities.

In the past, large numbers of Mexican nationals have crossed the border illegally to work in American fields during periods of labor shortage. This law provides a legal means of entry for the Mexicans for temporary farm employment, with safeguards for both the worker and employer. Illegal entry is made unprofitable or less attractive, at least.

Under the law as it now stands, the program has the following general features:

The Secretary of Labor is authorized to establish and operate reception centers at or near the places of entry of Mexicans into this country for the purpose of housing such workers while arrangements are made for their employment in or departure from the United States. Recruitment centers are operated within Mexico, and transportation is provided from the recruitment centers to reception centers and from reception centers back to recruitment centers. Subsistence is also provided, and emergency medical care and burial expenses (up to $150) if necessary, during

transportation and at the reception centers. The Department of Labor staff assists the workers and employees in negotiating agricultural employment contracts, and the United States Government guarantees the performance of such contracts by the employers.

The U. S. government guarantees the workers that they will receive their pay. If an employer fails to pay them, the government does. But if the government has to pay them, the employers are then indebted to the government.

The use of Mexican labor is restricted to areas where the Secretary of Labor certifies that (1) domestic workers, able, willing and qualified are not available; (2) the employment of Mexicans will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of domestic labor similarly employed; and (3) reasonable efforts have been made to attract domestic help at wages, hours and working conditions comparable to those offered Mexicans.

A new section of the law created by Public Law 87-345 forbids the use of Mexicans for employment other than in temporary or seasonal occupations and forbids their employment to operate or maintain power-driven self-propelled harvesting, planting or cultivating machinery except in specific cases where the Secretary of Labor finds it necessary to avoid undue hardship. Another new amendment prohibits the use of Mexican labor for some processing activities and horticultural employment.

In 1960 there were five individual employers and one association of employers in Illinois who employed 375 Mexican workers under the program. About 70 percent of the Mexican nationals are contracted for by growers in two states, Texas and California.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 35 THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM February 15, 1962

A. R. Allen

The land-grant college bill was enacted in July 1862. Under the Morrill Act, each state was entitled to receive 30,000 acres of public lands for each senator and representative it had in Congress. Proceeds from the sale of these lands were to be invested and the income used to create and maintain colleges.

Money so invested constitutes a perpetual fund, the interest of which is to be inviolably appropriated to the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college "where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislature of the state may respectively prescribe."

The new colleges had difficulty in getting under way. The income from investments was in most cases not sufficient, since land was cheap and the sums realized from sales were not great. Further federal aid was granted under the Morrill Act of 1890. This aid was increased to $50,000 annually for each state and territory by the Nelson Amendment of 1907. In 1935 the scope of federal aid to state agricultural colleges was expanded. This aid was increased slightly in 1962. At that point there was authorized $1,000,000 each fiscal year to be paid to the states and territories in equal shares and an additional sum of $1,501,500 to be paid out to the states and territories in shares proportionate to state populations. This aid was increased in 1960 by PL 86-638 to $7,650,000 to be divided equally among the 50 states and Puerto Rico and $4,300,000 to be divided on a population basis. These amounts are in addition to the annual $50,000 appropriation to each state and territory authorized by the Morrill Act of 1890 as amended.

By 1900 most of these land-grant colleges were well established and expanding rapidly, and many were carrying on extension teaching. After the turn of the century, the United States Department of Agriculture began county demonstration work, which spread rapidly. It became organized on a county basis, with farmers and businessmen helping to finance agents in their counties. Demand developed for a nation-wide system of extension work.

Under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, Congress agreed to match state grants for extension work. An extension office was established in the Department of Agriculture. Special extension divisions were created in the state colleges.

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The Federal Extension Service has been in existence since 1923, when provision for it was made in an appropriation act. Its work is cooperative in that the United States Department of Agriculture, the land-grant colleges, county governments, and in some cases private organizations share in financing and in developing programs.

Cooperative agricultural extension work is defined in the law as the giving of instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture and home economics and related subjects to persons not attending or resident in the colleges, and imparting information on those subjects through demonstrations, publications, and otherwise. Included also are necessary printing and distribution of information. The work is to be carried on in such manner as may be mutually agreed upon by the Secretary of Agriculture and the state agricultural college or colleges involved.

After enactment of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, numerous amendments and supplementary acts followed. Appropriations for extension work had to be made separately under these acts, and different accounts of expenditures had to be kept. In 1953 these various laws were consolidated by incorporation of the substance of various later acts into the Smith-Lever Act.

In 1953 the law governing appropriations to extension work was also changed in the following respects:

1. Now authorized are such appropriations as Congress may deem necessary, rather than specific sums authorized under the old laws.

2. The shares of the various states were frozen at the amounts received by them for the fiscal year 1953, with certain exceptions. Previously part of the appropriation had been apportioned on the basis of rural population, and part on the basis of farm population, as determined by the latest census. This meant that certain states lost funds as a result of the census every ten years.

3. Under the amended law appropriations in excess of those of 1953 are distributed as follows: four percent on the basis of special need, 48 percent on the basis of rural population, and 48 percent on the basis of farm population.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 36 March 1, 1962

THE LIVESTOCK TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 1960

A. R. Allen

The Livestock Transportation Act of 1906 is also commonly known as the Twenty-Eight Hour Law.

This law provides that any railroad or any other common carrier doing business in interstate commerce shall not confine animals in cars of any description for a period longer than 28 consecutive hours.

Animals must not be confined for a longer time without unloading them in a humane manner. They must be put in properly equipped pens for rest, water and feed for at least five consecutive hours. The law does make an exception in case of storm or other unavoidable causes that cannot be anticipated or avoided.

In computing the length of confinement, the loading and unloading time need not be considered. But the time during which the animals have been confined without rest, food or water on connecting roads must be included.

Animals need not be unloaded if they have proper food, water, space and opportunity to rest in the car in which they are being transported.

Also, upon the written request of the owner or person in custody of the particular shipment, the time of confinement may be extended to 36 hours. The written request must be separate and apart from any printed bill of lading or other railroad form.

It is not required that sheep be unloaded at night, but when the time expires at night they may continue in transit to a suitable place for unloading, subject to the 36-hour limitation.

The law provides that animals unloaded in transit shall be properly fed and watered either by the owner or by the person having custody or, in case of his default, then by the carrier. The person who feeds and waters the animals has a lien on them for such care, collectible at the destination in the same manner as the transportation charges are collected. The law does not prevent the owner or shipper from furnishing feed for the animals if he so desires.

The act also applies to owners of vessels carrying animals in interstate commerce. However, such animals need not be unloaded for rest if they have proper food, water, space and opportunity to rest on the boat or vessel.

Any carrier who knowingly and willfully fails to comply with the act is subject to a penalty of up to $500 for each such failure.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 37 March 15, 1962

THE SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

A. R. Allen

This program was started in the fall of 1954 under the Agricultural Act of 1954 as an outright price support measure. It has continued to serve that function, and there is evidence that it has played an important and effective part in supporting milk prices to producers. However, the program has been so generally and enthusiastically accepted by parents, school officials and nutritionists that it has now taken on more of the aspects of being devoted to the general welfare of the nation's children than of being solely for price support purposes.

Under the special milk program, the Department of Agriculture reimburses schools participating in the school lunch program up to the maximum rate of four cents per half pint in excess of the half pint provided in the lunch and reimburses other schools up to the maximum rate of three cents per half pint. Within the maximum rates established by the Department, the schools are reimbursed for reducing the selling price to children below the cost of the milk and for incurring expenses in distributing the milk.

In 1956 Congress extended the program to include nonprofit summer camps, nursery schools, settlement houses and similar nonprofit child-care institutions. These are reimbursed at the rate of two cents per half pint.

In the first year of operation, almost 450 million half pints were distributed under the program in over 41,000 schools, and expenditures totaled 17.. million dollars. The program has now expanded to the point where for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 19.., the Commodity Credit Corporation is authorized to spend 105 million dollars to carry it out. In the fiscal year 19.. almost 10,000 schools and other institutions participated in the program, and reimbursements were in the neighborhood of 85.2 million dollars, covering 2.5 billion half pints.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 38 Taxpayers' Account Numbers April 2, 1962

A. R. Allen

Since Public Law 87-397 was approved on October 6, 1961, individuals must record their account numbers on their personal tax returns after December 31, 1961. Those who file information returns on income paid to others must obtain the account numbers of these persons and include this information on their returns. The act also requires that persons supply their account numbers to those who must file information returns.

The supplying of account numbers on information returns applies only to tax periods after December 31, 1962.

The act provides a penalty of $5 for each failure to supply an identifying number unless the person can show that this failure is due to a reasonable cause.

The act is designed to improve enforcement and collection of income taxes by facilitating the expanded use of automatic data processing equipment and by enabling the Internal Revenue Service to match information returns with tax returns.

Through the use of taxpayer account numbers and automatic data processing equipment, the Internal Revenue Service hopes to develop a single file that will contain in one place information relating to all tax transactions involving a taxpayer.

The account numbers to be used by the IRS are the presently existing social security numbers. Between [illegible] and 90 percent of all individual income tax

returns presently filed already show a social security account number. These taxpayers will not need to obtain new account numbers. However, IRS estimates that 24 million persons who file income tax returns either have never had social security numbers or have forgotten the numbers they once had. About half of these people will have to obtain numbers or request a search for their old numbers. The other half of this 24 million will not need numbers, since they are wives filing joint returns with husbands who do not have independent income of $600 or more. In such cases the account numbers of the husbands will be sufficient.

Another category of social security numbers is the "identification" number. These numbers presently are issued to employers having employees covered by social security or by withholding and to businesses filing excise tax returns. The only new category that will have to obtain such numbers are businesses without employees which, nevertheless, distribute income to others.

For persons not now having account numbers, applications to obtain the information necessary to assign them account numbers can be obtained from the Internal Revenue Service or local post offices late in 1962. To the maximum extent possible, applications for account numbers will be mailed to those who do not presently have such numbers.



CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 39 April 16, 1962

THE AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTION IN INTERSTATE TRUCKING

By A. R. Allen

Under the Motor Carrier Act of 1935, the Interstate Commerce Commission was given authority to regulate interstate trucking. Regulation includes control over who may engage in trucking, what routes or areas are to be served and what rates are to be charged.

Agricultural trucking, however, is largely exempt from federal regulation under the Motor Carrier Act. The intent of the Congress in writing this exemption into law has been variously interpreted by the ICC and the courts.

Before 1938, the ICC had held that if a vehicle was used at any time, not just on a particular trip, to transport other than "agricultural commodities (not including manufactured products thereof)," it was barred after that from the agricultural exemption. This interpretation of the law had come to be known as the "poisoned vehicle" doctrine. So in June 1938 Congress passed a law that did away with this "poisoned vehicle" doctrine. This law made the commodity being carried, rather than the vehicle, the determining factor in the application of the exemption.

In 1952 Congress amended the act to provide that horticultural commodities were to be included in the term "agricultural commodities." This amendment canceled ICC rulings that nursery stock, flowers and bulbs were not agricultural commodities within the meaning of the act.

So after the 1952 amendment, the law specifically exempted the following types of transportation from all regulation, except regulations concerning qualifications and maximum hours of service of employees and safety of operation or standards of equipment:

1. Motor vehicles controlled and operated by any farmers when used in the transportation of his agricultural and horticultural products or in the transportation of supplies to his farm.

2. Motor vehicles controlled and operated by an agricultural cooperative association or by a federation of such cooperative associations if the federation possesses no greater powers or purposes than a cooperative association as defined in the Agricultural Marketing Act.

3. Motor vehicles used in carrying ordinary livestock, fish or agricultural and horticultural commodities, not including manufactured products thereof, if such motor vehicles are not used in carrying any other property, or passengers, for compensation.

A great deal of controversy had arisen between the ICC and the carriers over the question of what was a manufactured product of an agricultural commodity under exemption (3) above. Were dressed chickens, shelled peanuts, or frozen fruits "manufactured products" or were they still "agricultural commodities"? The Interstate Commerce Commission took the position that these were "manufactured products" and therefore outside the exemption. Most federal courts took the opposite position, however.

Finally, through the Transportation Act of 1958, Congress amended the law by making a specific list of commodities that are to be exempt. They also declared the Interstate Commerce Commission ruling of March 19, 1958, regarding exempt or non-exempt commodities to be part of this law. This Act of 1958 also granted "grandfather" rights for those motor carriers which had been carrying commodities that had been exempt but were brought under regulation if they had been in operation on May 1, 1958.

This 1958 legislation did not try to list all exempt or non-exempt commodities. The ICC and the courts can still decide whether a non-listed commodity falls within the exemption. Among the commodities about which such decisions will be made are processed products that have yet to be developed.

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CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 40 REGULATION OF OLEOMARGARINE May 1, 19[illegible]

A. R. Allen

Until 1950 the federal government regulated oleomargarine through its taxing power as well as through the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act. In 1950 federal taxes on oleomargarine were repealed. This meant that without new legislation federal law affected oleomargarine only if it moved in interstate commerce, since the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of that time did not cover oleomargarine produced and sold in the same state. Also, its applicability at the restaurant level was uncertain. Therefore, the act was amended to require prescribed packaging and labeling of yellow oleomargarine or margarine regardless of where it was produced, and provision was made for its identification in restaurants.

The power of the federal government to regulate intrastate oleomargarine transactions is grounded on the theory that such regulation is necessary to make its interstate regulation effective.

Under the 1950 act the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act is to apply to intrastate sales of oleomargarine in the same manner as to interstate sales.

The act provides that no person may sell or offer for sale colored oleomargarine or colored margarine unless:

1. Such oleomargarine or margarine is packaged;

2. The net weight of the contents of any package sold in a retail establishment is one pound or less;

3. There appears on the label of the package the word "oleomargarine" or "margarine" in type or lettering at least as large as any other type of lettering used in a full and accurate statement of all the ingredients contained in it; and

4. Each part of the contents of the package is contained in a wrapper which bears the word "oleomargarine" or "margarine" in type or lettering not smaller than 20-point type.

No person may possess in a form ready for serving colored oleomargarine or colored margarine at a public eating place unless there is displayed a notice that oleomargarine or margarine is served. Such notice must be displayed prominently and conspicuously in such place and in such manner as to make it likely to be read and understood by the ordinary individual being served, or it must be printed or otherwise set forth on the menu in type or lettering not smaller than that normally used to designate the serving of other food items.

No person may serve colored oleomargarine or colored margarine at a public eating place, whether or not any charge is made, unless each separate serving bears or is accompanied by labeling identifying it, or each separate serving is triangular in shape.

The 1950 act also strengthened the Federal Trade Commission Act prohibition against misleading advertising of oleomargarine. That act now provides that, in the case of oleomargarine or margarine, an advertisement is deemed misleading in a material respect if in such advertisement representations are made or suggested by statement, word, grade designation, design, device, symbol, sound, or any combination of them that such oleomargarine or margarine is a dairy product. The act does not in any way prevent a truthful, accurate and full statement of all the ingredients.

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ARA:cm
4/30/62

CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

No. 41 May 15, 1962

THE PERISHABLE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES ACT

A. R. Allen

The Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act was passed in 1930 to improve marketing of perishable agricultural commodities in interstate and foreign commerce. The objective was to eliminate unfair and fraudulent practices in this field.

The act applies to all commission merchants, dealers, or brokers who handle fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables in interstate or foreign commerce except (1) those who raise the commodity they handle and (2) those who buy in small quantities for sale only at retail. Each of these persons to whom the act applies must have a license issued by the Department of Agriculture. Any willful violation of this license requirement carries a penalty of up to $500 for each offense and up to $25 for each day it continues.

The act makes it unlawful in any interstate or foreign transaction involving perishable agricultural commodities:

1. To engage in or use any unfair, unreasonable, discriminatory, or deceptive practice in connection with weighing, counting, or otherwise determining quantity;

2. For any dealer to reject or fail to deliver in accordance with the terms of a contract without reasonable cause;

3. For any commission merchant to discard, dump, or destroy perishable agricultural commodities without reasonable cause;

4. To make, for a fraudulent purpose, any false or misleading statement in connection with any transaction or to fail or refuse to account truly and correctly and make full payment in respect to any transaction or to fail, without reasonable cause, to perform any duty in connection with any such transaction;

5. To misrepresent by word, act, mark, stencil, label, statement, or deed the character, kind, grade, quality, quantity, size, pack, weight, condition, degree of maturity, or origin of any perishable agricultural commodity;

6. To remove, alter, or tamper with, for a fraudulent purpose, any card, stencil, stamp, tag, or other notice containing a state or federal inspection certificate or statement placed on any container or railroad car containing any perishable agricultural commodity;

7. To make, without consent of an inspector, any change in the contents of a load or lot of any such commodity after it has been officially inspected unless for re-storing or discarding inferior produce.

If any commission merchant, dealer, or broker does any of these prohibited acts, he is liable by law to the person or persons injured for the full amount of damages. Such liability may be enforced either by complaint to the Secretary of Agriculture or by suit in any court of competent jurisdiction.

If any interested party believes that the act has been violated, he may file a complaint with the Department. If it is determined that there has been a violation, a reparation order is issued directing the violator to pay the determined amount of damages to the injured party by a specified date.

If the party found liable does not pay the award or does not file an appeal with the Federal District Court within 30 days from the date of the reparation order, his license is suspended until such time as payment is made. The act also authorizes disciplinary proceedings by the Secretary of Agriculture against violators.

The act authorizes the Secretary to employ and license inspectors to inspect and certify to any interested person the class, quality, and condition of any lot of any perishable agricultural commodity when offered for interstate or foreign shipment or when received at places where the Secretary finds it practicable to provide such service. Such inspections may be made without regard to the filing of a complaint and in cooperation with other branches of the federal government, the states or municipalities. Fees for inspection are charged to cover the costs for the service rendered.



CONGRESS ON THE FARM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

NEW RULES FOR DETERMINING DEPRECIATION ALLOWANCES

A. R. Allen

On July 11, 1962, the Internal Revenue Service issued new procedural rules that are to be followed in computing depreciation allowances for all federal income tax returns due after that date.

These new rules do not change existing federal income tax depreciation principles. The same rules used in the past will be used in the future to determine who may deduct depreciation, what property is depreciable, and what basis and methods to use for depreciation.

The new rules attempt to ease the businessman's relations with IRS in arriving at fair depreciation allowances on business property. Basically, the new procedure permits a taxpayer to claim depreciation allowances that IRS will not disturb so long as the taxpayer's depreciation schedule is consistent with his actual practice in retiring and replacing machinery and equipment.

The new procedure establishes guidelines to help determine appropriate depreciable lives for capital assets. The depreciable lives given in the new rules are much shorter than under the previous rules. The taxpayer may adopt tax lives even shorter than those in the new guidelines if he can justify their use as reflecting his existing or intended replacement practice.

The new procedure does not supersede existing rules, outstanding arrangements or established procedures used by any taxpayer who desires to continue to use them.

The useful life guidelines pertaining to equipment and assets used in agriculture and other industries are set forth for broad classes of equipment in each group. These guidelines are based upon the average life of the equipment as a whole in each classification, instead of giving a useful life for each specific piece of equipment as was the procedure in the past. Following are some of these useful life guidelines that will be applied in depreciation schedules for taxpayers who are in agriculture or related industries. The table below is arranged by length of guideline lives.

Guideline life in years	Class of asset
3	Automobiles. Breeding hogs.
4	Light general-purpose trucks.
5	Breeding sheep and goats.
7	Breeding or dairy cattle.
10	Breeding or work horses. Agricultural machinery and equipment, including fences.
12	Manufacture of food and kindred products (industry) except grain mill products, sugar products and vegetable oil products.
17	Grain and grain mill products industry.
18	Sugar and sugar products industry. Vegetable oil and products industry.
20	Land improvements (includes agricultural land improvements that are not classed as soil and water conservation expenditures).
25	Farm buildings.
45	Dwellings.
60	Grain elevators. Warehouses.

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities, and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Most farms have some land that might be called "lost acres." It is too rough, too steep, too irregular or too small to farm economically. It returns nothing to the farm income, but still adds its share of the costs. Such land is not suited to crops or pasture, but growing a tree crop on it could contribute to the farm income.

Return of 6% on Pines

Bob Gilmore, Dixon Springs forester, says that in southern Illinois growing loblolly pine on "lost acres" can return 6% interest compounded annually on land investment and on taxes paid. Loblolly will grow at the rate of 1 1/2 cords of pulpwood per acre each year. Standing trees are currently worth $2.12 per cord for pulping. So in 16 years a loblolly pine tree crop can increase the value of $25 an acre land, to $75 an acre. In other words, $25-an-acre land planted to loblolly will triple in value in 16 years.

Tree Costs

Loblolly pine seedlings cost $10 a thousand, and a thousand trees will plant an acre. However, the Agricultural Conservation Program will allow $22 per thousand for trees planted. This means that the ACP will buy the trees and pay good wages for planting. A man and a boy team, using hand tools, can plant about an acre a day and get $12 for the day's work.

Not all areas are clear enough of brush for easy planting or for proper tree growth. Here again the ACP will pay as much as one-half of clearing costs up to a maximum payment of $10 per acre.

Trees offer a splendid opportunity for putting idle acres to work. Check with your farm adviser and get your tree order in now.

HAC:dl
1/11/62

NEWS FROM AGRICULTURE
NIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE URBANA, ILLINOIS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPECIAL TO RADIO AND TV STATIONS

IN TODAY'S PACKET

Corn Prices Were Up Last Fall
Trees Make Money On Poor Land
Little Change In Farm Net Income
Sales Of Prepared Frozen Foods Climb
Don't "Tail Gate"
Reading Can Be Fun
Fashion Forecast For Spring

Corn Prices Were Up Last Fall

A smaller crop and a higher price support level boosted corn prices a little higher this past fall than they were the year before.

University of Illinois farm outlook specialist Larry Simerl says corn prices seem likely to work a little higher in the first half of 1962--whereas they made little or no advance during the same period last year.

Offsetting the smaller crop and higher price support level are much bigger sales of corn by the USDA. During October, November and December these sales totaled more than 8 times as much as during the same months in 1960.

Simerl says the USDA is pushing corn sales in order to keep the price down and to replace cash paid to farmers under the 1961 feed-grain program.

But, while selling record amounts of corn, the government will be taking almost as much off the market. In 1961, farmers had more than 1,400 million bushels eligible for price support.

Most of this corn will be placed under price support and turned over to the government unless the market price rises to the support level.

****-HDN-****

Trees Make Money On Poor Land

Many farmers who have tried to farm hilly, eroded land without much success should consider a pine plantation for long-time returns.

University of Illinois forester L. B. Culver says loblolly pine growing on eroded land in southern Illinois can grow as much as 1 1/2 cords of pulpwood an acre a year and return as much as six percent on the investment.

The value of the trees on $25-an-acre land can boost land value plus crop to $75 an acre in 16 years.

Culver says northern Illinois farmers probably can't do so well. But a tree crop can still bring a good return.

****-HDN-****

Little Change In Farm Net Income

Net farm income, which rose about 8 percent in 1961, won't change much in 1962, a University of Illinois agricultural economist believes.

Larry Simerl points out that the increase in 1961 came largely through bigger government payments to farmers, especially under the feed grain program.

Officials in Washington don't seem to be planning higher payments in 1962. Simerl says there is little prospect for much increase in income from farm marketing during the year.

****-HDG-****

Sales Of Prepared Frozen Foods Climb

There seems to be no end to the upward sweep in the consumption of prepared frozen foods. Sales of some products have more than doubled in a year's time, and they are still climbing.

Frances Van Duyne, director of foods research, University of Illinois home economics department, reports that a recent survey made by the editors of "Quick Frozen Foods" indicates that some 214 million dinners-on-a-tray were sold in 1960. This is an increase of 30 to 40 percent over sales of the previous year.

Sales of frozen fruit pies climbed slightly less than 30 percent in the same year. Bakery products showed a sales increase of 55 percent and are continuing to increase at a rapid rate.

One of the major reasons for the sales growth of these prepared frozen foods is the ever-increasing variety now being offered in almost every market. Another reason is the improved quality of many of the products.

The prediction is that sales will continue to climb as more women take jobs away from home and as more types of convenience foods are made available at reasonable prices.

****-JEH-****

Keep Your Distance--Don't "Tail Gate"

O. L. Hogsett, safety specialist, University of Illinois College of Agriculture, warns that the braking distance of your car may be 12 times as great on icy as on dry streets.

Don't take chances. Watch your driving, keep your distance and don't "tail gate."

****-JEH-****

Reading Can Be Fun

Are you concerned about your child's lack of interest in books? Do you think he should read more?

Mrs. Margueritte Lynch, family life specialist, University of Illinois home economics department, suggests that the first "must" is to create an interest in books, and one way is to expose the child to books that he can read.

Visiting the public library to select books and to enjoy the story hour will give him a picture of some of the good things in store for him. Regular visits will persuade him that a library is just as important as the fire house or the gas station.

Let him know that you too are interested in good reading, and take time to read with him and encourage him to discuss the things he reads. Let him select his own reading material. You can set limits if necessary, but don't be dictatorial. Give him some freedom.

****-JEH-****

Fashion Forecast For Spring

The waistline is the main theme of the fashion story if we take our cue from the New York shows, says Marjorie Mead, University of Illinois clothing specialist.

It is a story told in different ways. Some designers mark the waist high and gently. Others score it twice, at both top and bottom of a wide set-in midriff.

Some sash the waist lightly, others cinch it with a wide belt. Some compromise by slanting it diagonally, high front to low back or side to side. Armholes growing smaller and higher bring the waist line into focus on semi-fitted suits, coats and dresses.

****-JEH-****

1/15/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Most of us consider cornstalks, or corn stover with ears removed, a low-quality roughage. Compared with legume hay, corn silage or sorghum grain silage, corn stover is away down in quality. But this poor roughage can produce amazing results if we can get enough of it inside the animal.

Corn Stalk Supply - High

Last winter sheep researcher Frank Hinds wanted to determine how well ewes would produce on a roughage ration that was partly corn stover. After all, about half of the dry matter in the corn plant is left in the field as stover after the grain has been harvested. In Illinois this means that tremendous amounts of roughage are left in the field.

Feeding Cornstalks

Last January, about a month before lambing, a group of ewes were started on a self-fed pelleted roughage, half of which was corn stover and the other half a mixed legume hay. The hay and stover were ground, mixed and pelleted. This pelleted roughage was fed through lambing and until the lambs were about 50 days old. In addition, the ewes were fed one pound of a corn and protein mix per head each day. Lambs had access to a creep ration.

On this ration the ewes lost some weight, but no more than the normal amount for nursing ewes. They raised a 125 percent lamb crop and the lambs gained very well--one-half pound per head per day. Twin lambs gained 0.46 pound daily, and singles gained 0.59 pound.

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Production of the flock on the half corn stalk roughage ration was higher than that of two other flocks, one on a full feed of corn silage with some loose hay and the other on a full feed of grain sorghum silage and loose hay. The same grain ration and creep were fed to all groups.

The most productive flock was one that received an all-hay roughage self-fed in pellet form. But in both groups receiving the pelleted roughage the dry matter intake was nearly 1 1/2 times as high as in the groups on silage.

Low-quality roughage will do the job if the animal can eat enough of it. Self-feeding pellets is one way of increasing feed intake.

A Date

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 13. That is the date for Sheep Day at the Dixon Springs Experiment Station. The program starts at 9:30 a.m. and continues into the afternoon. Lunch will be available at nominal cost.

HAC:dl
1/15/62

THIS WEEK....

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Here it is late January, with a steady succession of days and nights at zero or near-zero temperatures. Still the Station beef cow herd is on pasture and the cows are feeding themselves. They are not getting an abundance of grass because weather and grazing have already taken care of most of the grass. But they are feeding themselves from bales of hay scattered or left in the field for this purpose.

Dry Beef Cows Use Damaged Hay

Hay that had been weather damaged last summer before baling had to be removed from the field. It was hardly worth storing, so it was put into round bales and scattered over the Big Wells tract last July. Now, in January, the cows on Big Wells are in excellent flesh, helping themselves to this hay and scattering their manure at the same time.

The cows clean up the bales amazingly well with little waste. Some folks say that the bales are tight enough to keep the cows from trying to open fresh bales before finishing an already opened bale. This may be true. Also, the inner parts of the opened bales are brighter and less weathered than the outside of unopened bales. But whatever the reason for little waste, the cows are fat and the system saves labor.

Don't Forget the Bull

During the non-breeding season, we may tend to forget the bull when we are busy giving producing cows and young stock the best of care. The bull need not be fat, but he should always be kept in thrifty condition. He'll pay for this attention next year by siring more calves in a shorter time.

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This winter the bull that has been worked hard and has lost flesh may require five or six pounds of grain daily in addition to a liberal amount of roughage. The bull with fair fleshing can go through the winter on about 20 pounds of silage and 12 to 14 pounds of legume hay daily. As the breeding season approaches, grain may be added to the ration.

Exercise is important to the bull. Close confinement often impairs breeding ability and rarely helps his disposition. On the Station several bulls are run together in a large lot. They work off steam by pushing one another around and rarely become bad tempered.

HAC:cm
1/25/62

THIS WEEK...

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in Southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Corn silage has for many years enjoyed an important position as a wintering and growing roughage for cattle. Corn produces heavy tonnages of succulent, readily consumed silage which, when properly supplemented with protein and minerals, will produce more tons of beef per acre than any other crop.

Acre of Corn--2,700 Pounds Beef

Last winter Dixon Springs Station calves full fed on corn silage demonstrated that an acre of corn preserved as silage was capable of producing over 2,728 pounds of beef. These calves were weaned from the Station beef herd about mid-November and weighed onto test at about 430 pounds. During the next 92 days they gained over 150 pounds at an average rate of 1 2/3 pounds per head per day. Their daily ration was 31 pounds of silage and 1 pound of soybean oil meal with a simple mineral mix offered free choice.

The rate of gain of these calves was good, but not out of the ordinary. Similar calves on a full feed of dwarf corn silage gained even faster--at the rate of 1 3/4 pounds per head per day. But, on the acre basis, the dwarf corn was capable of producing only 1,450 pounds of beef, about half that of the regular corn. The difference between the two silages lay in the yields.

Over 20 Tons of Silage

The regular corn silage was made from field plantings that produced nearly 21 tons of silage with 30% dry matter. The grain yield of this same corn was 95 bushels of 13% moisture corn. The dwarf corn yielded 11.94 tons of silage

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with 30% dry matter and a grain yield of 90 bushels of 13% moisture corn. Although each pound of dwarf corn was higher in feeding value than each pound of regular corn silage, the dwarf corn produced only about half as many pounds per acre.

Beef Value of Acre of Corn

Before putting an acre of this corn silage through beef animals, we can calculate its market value. The 95 bushels of corn at $1.20 per bushel would be worth $114. The hay equivalent in stalks, leaves and cob of the silage at $20 per ton would be worth about $88. So, before feeding, an acre of this silage may be calculated to be worth $202. But putting the same feed through healthy calves resulted in 2,728 pounds of gain. With the gain valued at 20 cents a pound, an acre of this corn silage and the 1,350 pounds of soybean oil meal that were fed were worth $545!! No wonder corn silage continues to be a popular feed on Illinois farms.

HAC:bl
2/7/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Two hundred cattle producers attending the Beef Cattle Days at the Dixon Springs Experiment Station on February 6 and 7 learned that heavy nitrogen fertilization and high planting rates of corn do affect the Vitamin A nutrition of cattle feeding on silages made from this corn. Al Neumann, beef cattle researcher at Urbana, showed that the nitrate levels of silages increased as nitrogen fertilization and planting rates were increased. Neumann stated that, as the nitrate content of a ration increased, the liver stores of Vitamin A in cattle feeding on the ration decreased. Neumann said that Vitamin A supplementation would remedy the problem, emphasizing that farmers could ill afford to cut out fertilization. High crop yields are necessary to profitable cattle returns.

Stilbestrol Implants on Pasture Cattle

Don Walker, livestock extension specialist, told the same group of farmers that 12 to 24 mg. stilbestrol implants on pasture cattle had little effect on their subsequent feed-lot gains, carcass grade or dressing percentage. But the implants did materially increase pasture gains. In these statements, Walker was reporting work from the Iowa Experiment Station. The conclusion of the Iowa workers was that, to cattle feeders, implanted feeder cattle were about equal in value to non-implanted feeder cattle.

Great Potential for Cattle Improvement

Burdette Breidenstein, meats researcher at Urbana, in a presentation on beef carcass cut-out values stimulated a lively discussion among groups attending the Cattle Days. Breidenstein said that the consumer had seen his wishes reflected

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in modern merchandising of meat products and though there are many of the "right kind of cattle" in our population today, there is a preponderance of the "wrong kind." He said, "It behooves us to be cognizant of changes in consumer demands and of the tremendous amount of waste that must be removed by the retailer to make our product acceptable to the consumer." Breidenstein continued, "It is not to be assumed that all cattle produced today are unacceptable, but rather that any industry has a great potential for improvement in order to better satisfy the consumer."

HAC:wl
2/13/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

"The outlook for lamb prices during the coming year gives some reason for optimism. Prices for 1962 will average above 1961." This is what Brice Kirtley, University of Illinois livestock marketing specialist, told sheep producers at the Dixon Springs Sheep Day February 13.

Reduced Numbers

Last year's heavy slaughter of sheep and lambs has reduced numbers of ewes on farms and ranches and numbers of lambs in feedlots. Kirtley said estimates indicate a 12 percent smaller slaughter in the first three months of 1962.

Further, on the optimistic side, "general business conditions appear better this year than at the start of last year, providing higher incomes for a slightly stronger consumer demand." Also, a more orderly marketing of meats is likely in contrast with rather heavy bunching of supplies late last spring and early summer.

Some Resistance

However, Kirtley said that in recent years lamb chops have had to carry an increased percentage of the lamb carcass value. There is some question whether the housewife will pay more now for chops than she has been paying. If not, the increase in price may not be so great as the reduced supply seems to indicate. Nonetheless, all factors considered, lamb prices should be higher this year than last.

Basic Research

"Basic research is necessary for long-time progress in livestock production. We must do even more basic research if agriculture is to continue to make improvements." This is what U. S. Garrigus, head of sheep research at the University of Illinois told producers during the Sheep Day program.

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The University of Illinois, the North Dakota Experiment Station and the Ohio Experiment Station, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, are conducting basic research in a sheep breeding project. In this project the University of Illinois flocks of Suffolks and Targhees are at the Dixon Springs Experiment Station.

This project involves the exchange of lamb crops with other stations so that all stations will have sheep of like parentage and breeding for evaluating environmental differences in production. Basically the research proposes to determine to what extent each characteristic is inherited, how much dependence can be placed on selection of breeding stock by the way an animal looks, whether there are breed and strain differences and whether there are advantages to crossbreeding.

Patience

Answers to such involved research are not easy to come by. Multitudes of measurements, observations and recordings and analysis of data are necessary over a number of years. Answers are not forthcoming tomorrow, or next year, or the following year. But such basic research has a way of paying off. We cannot doubt that this particular research will benefit both the sheep producer and the consumer.

HAC:bl
2/21/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Among the reasons for culling a beef cow is worn teeth. It is not uncommon for a ten-year-old cow to have ground her teeth down to the gums. It is then difficult for her to consume enough pasture to maintain her own weight and raise a heavy calf.

A Progress Report

Last spring Dixon Springs researchers placed stainless steel caps on the teeth of a group of seven- to nine-year-old cows. These dental caps cannot be placed on stubs or in badly worn mouths. There must be something to cap. Therefore, the cows receiving the caps were sound of mouth, though wear had occurred. It was expected that the caps would arrest further wear and protect the nerve endings of worn teeth. A true evaluation of the dental caps will not be possible for three or four years. However, after six months of use last summer some caps had been lost, and most of those still in place were showing wear. Calves weaned from cows with the dental caps had gained no faster than calves from cows without the crowns.

Lamb Management

For the past four years at Dixon Springs, an in-and-out system of lamb management has consistently produced a higher percentage of prime and choice market lambs at an earlier date than several other systems. The in-and-out system involves continuous housing of the lambs, with a creep-controlled self-feed available. The ewes are brought in from pasture during the daytime for the lambs to nurse. At night only the ewes go back to pasture.

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This system of management and others, such as early weaning, where lambs are not allowed to graze with the ewes, has nearly eliminated the internal parasite problem in lambs. However, unless internal parasites are a real problem, the cost of labor and feed in the in-and-out system may make it a less economical way of producing lamb than the more conventional system of grazing on good legume pasture. In the in-and-out system feed costs may be expected to run $4 to $5 per lamb. This cost is about $4 to $5 more than the cost of feed for lambs grazing with their mothers on a good legume pasture.

So here's the way it looks: With hard-to-handle internal parasite problems, poor pastures, and a need for closer observation for lamb health, the in-and-out system looks good. Otherwise, the system of grazing on top pastures, with conventional parasite control, will probably mean more money for producers.

HAC:wl
3/1/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

High-yielding grass-legume pastures may or may not be more profitable than mediocre pastures. Top pastures will cost more than poor ones. Therefore, more livestock production must be taken from them to pay the higher costs.

It is important, then, to have healthy, thrifty animals that can most efficiently convert pasture to beef or milk. The animals should have been bred for rapid gains, and their quality should be high enough to make the gains worth more on the market. The pasture should be grazed properly--that is, each of the grasses and legumes should be grazed when it is most nutritious.

For Increased Gains

Here are some practices you can use this year to get more from your pastures:

Start the grazing season with thin steers. Thin steers on pasture alone can be expected to gain about 65 pounds more than fleshy or half-fat animals. Fleshy steers should be continued on feed on the pasture.

Graze steers that are free of internal parasites. The wormy steer will make poor use of pasture. If you suspect that animals may have worms, drench with phenothiazine before putting them on grass.

Use stilbestrol implants on steers. A 12- or 24-milligram implant can mean an extra 20 to 30 pounds of gain on each steer.

Last, feeding on pasture after the first 90 to 100 days of grazing can help you use pasture more efficiently. At Dixon Springs five different groups of steers in five different years gained 150 pounds during the first 114 days of the pasture season. During the rest of the summer, the steers gained only 50 pounds each. Average daily gain was 1.32 pounds for the first period and dropped to 0.75 pound during the last 67 days.

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A program on feeding on pasture after 90 to 100 days can relieve the pressure on needed acres. It means that stocking rates can be stepped up so that the pasture is more completely consumed in the spring and early summer when forage is most plentiful and nutritious. With this system it is reasonable to increase pasture carrying capacity by one-third.

Good pastures, good management and good livestock will pay off.

Rural Development

Les Broom, area resources development adviser, says that nine counties now have organized and have committees to study and work on ways to improve their counties. These counties, all in southern Illinois, are Pulaski, Alexander, Johnson, Jackson, Pope, Hardin, Union, Gallatin and White.

HAC:ml
3/14/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Save Calves

"The most important factor in raising beef calves is a high calving and weaning percentage." Bob Webb, Station superintendent, says, "See that every cow raises a calf."

It is during the calving season that you can make the most money. Every calf saved is worth a hundred-dollar bill and, conversely, every calf lost is a hundred-dollar bill lost.

If you lost a hundred-dollar bill, you'd spend a long time looking for it. Then in what better way could you spend your time than in closely watching your cows at calving time? Helping with difficult births will save calves. Helping weak, newborn calves can save more. To get a good start, new calves need a bellyful of milk. See that they get the chance for this first bellyful.

With only a 70 percent calf crop, you would need to sell 400-pound calves for nearly 36 cents a pound to get the same number of dollars as you'd get from a 100 percent calf crop selling at 25 cents a pound. In a 50-cow herd, a 70 percent calf crop means that 15 cows did not raise calves. Fifteen hundred dollars would pay for a lot of observing at calving time and for pregnancy checks after the breeding season.

Bull Sale

Ten performance-tested Hereford bulls sold for a total of $4,900 at Dixon Springs Experiment Station on April 10. These were two- and three-year-old bulls with complete gain records from birth to sale date.

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The fastest gaining bull sold to George P. Whittington, Henderson, Kentucky, for $775. Mr. Whittington also bought two more bulls. The top bull that he bought had gained one-half pound more per day on performance test than the average of the bulls sold. Did he pay too much for the bull in paying $285 above the average? No, if the average price wasn't too high.

Inheritance studies indicate that each of this bull's offspring, while in the feed lot, will gain one-fourth pound more per day than the offspring from the average bulls. On a 150-day feed, one year's produce, or only 32 calves, from this bull should produce 1,200 more pounds beef than the average. This difference should be worth $300 more on the market.

HAC:vl
4/19/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois, Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Our pilgrim fathers learned from the Indians to plant corn in a hill of soil underlain by a fish. Since then, methods of corn planting have changed and will doubtless continue to change. We have gone from minimum tillage, through intensive tillage, back to minimum tillage, with modifications, of course.

Weed-killing chemicals allow us to plant corn without cultivation. A plow-plant system for corn has many advantages over intensive seedbed preparation. And, this year, Dixon Springs researchers are putting in corn with absolutely no tillage. You can't get much more minimum than that.

Plant and Pick

This is the way some corn is being planted on the Station. About a month before corn planting time, atrazine was sprayed on fescue sod. In fact, cows had grazed this fescue sod all winter and only the day before the spraying was done. The atrazine performed as expected. It killed all the grass and weeds.

With no further operations other than broadcasting fertilizers, corn is being planted in this killed sod. Again, if atrazine performs as expected, there will be no weed growth all summer and no need for cultivation. We might call this the "plant and pick" system for growing corn, if indeed there is any corn to pick. But who can tell? We'll just have to wait and see.

Horse Population Up

On the Station, the horse population is up. At latest inventory, Raymond Enyart, manager of the quarter horses, reports six foals, four yearlings, three two-year-olds, two three-year-olds, nine aged mares, two studs, and two grade cow ponies for a grand total of twenty-eight head.

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Still putting in his regular eight-hour, cattle working day is Old Captain, a long-legged, hard-running grade cow pony. This is the same horse that we reported several years ago as being 25 years old and still active. Cattle herdsman, Oakley Robinson, and Old Captain have caught, tattooed, weighed, dehorned and castrated more than 300 calves on pasture already this spring.

Captain seems to be telling us by his activeness that he's not going to give way to any of these younger, upstart quarter horses.

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HAC:je
5/17/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Wool Pools Worth Five to Ten Cents a Pound

Some 40,000 to 50,000 pounds of wool arrived at the Dixon Springs Station for the annual wool pool on May 18, to be graded and sold to tne highest bidder.

Selling through the wool pools means five to ten cents more per pound to the producer. This increased price is possible because the wool is sorted and sold on a graded basis. Each fleece is examined and may fall into one of a dozen grades. At this year's sale over 5,000 fleeces were handled, each one individually.

Time to Clip Pasture

A drive around the Station reminds us that it is time to clip our pastures. Grasses have headed out, and the feeding value of the grass is dropping. Crude fiber is up and protein level is down. Clipping pastures will help to control weeds, but will do even more good by keeping the grasses growing for a longer time.

Liver Samples

Recently more than a hundred yearling cattle on the Station had their livers sampled. The reason for this mass sampling was to determine whether vitamin A stores in these cattle had risen, dropped or held their own on several different wintering rations. During the winter some of these cattle had received no vitamin A treatment, some had been fed vitamin A and some had received vitamin A injections.

Measuring Sheep and Tree Growth

Calipers are tools for measuring sheep growth. Microdendrometers are tools for measuring tree growth.

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Each week as lambs reach 90 days of age, they are subjected to several measurements. Their weight is measured with scales. Height at the withers, depth and length of body, width of rump and diameter of leg bone are measured with calipers. These measurements are useful in determining the heritability of various characteristics.

Each week the foresters remove from clock-driven recording drums on pine trees a run of paper that shows by an inked line the changes that have occurred in tree diameter. The microdendrometer is equipped with a movable plunger that fits snugly against a smooth, shellacked section of bark. As the tree grows, it pushes against the plunger, which in turn moves the recording pen. The resulting inked line records minute-to-minute changes in tree diameter. These measurements are made to determine the relation between soil moisture and tree growth. Also, the foresters are trying to find out whether a tree starts diameter growth first at the bottom, top or midway between.

HAC:dl
5/24/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Always, all year long, there is plenty of work to keep people on the Station busy. But May is an especially busy time. A dry May made possible much activity in plowing and planting corn. This month also was one of the best for making hay. The horticulture crew has been busy planting and cultivating garden truck, and the strawberries in variety tests have been coming on. Sampling of pasture forage is an everyday job, and now the bulls are being selected to go out with the various cow herds. And all this time weeds have been growing and the pastures need clipping. A wool pool and several tours during the month have satisfactorily rounded things out. This May has been a busy month.

Bulls Out

This week the cattle crew have been busy making up the breeding herds. Some 450 Hereford cows have been sorted into about 15 different groups to go on 15 different pastures for the breeding season.

Putting the bulls in at this time will mean March calves next year. The bulls will be left with the herds for about nine weeks. This will mean that our calves will vary in age by about two months from youngest to oldest.

We find that having all calves dropped in a relatively short time is a tremendous advantage, and it can also be as advantageous to other cattle producers. First, the entire cow herd can be wintered alike and together. Since all the cows are dry during the winter months, feed costs are less than for cows nursing calves. Second, the calves are weaned at one time and handled as a group rather than as several groups, as would be necessary when they vary widely in age. And, most

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important, especially to the commercial producer, prospective feeder buyers can be shown a larger package of uniform calves--calves of the same age and size. We think that this will make each calf sell for more.

Sheep - Internal Parasites

This is the season to expect losses from internal parasites in sheep. Treatment is necessary to keep gains and thrift up and, in fact, to prevent death losses.

There was a time when phenothiazine was the answer to stomach worms. Today it is less effective and leaves much to be desired. Nonetheless, phenothiazine is still being used here on the Station, although more frequently together with or alternating with the old Cu-Nic drench. This is our drenching schedule for the remainder of the summer: Drench every three weeks, using fine-particle phenothiazine alternately with the copper sulfate nicotine drench.

HAC:sl
5/31/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A round-up of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

These hot June nights are bringing on the corn. Corn height in many fields is getting to, or beyond, the stage for applying side-dressed nitrogen. On soils similar to those of the Station, side-dressed nitrogen is more effective than plow-down nitrogen. However, George McKibben, Station agronomist, says that fescue sod for corn must have higher rates of nitrogen than are currently being used. For optimum yields, George suggests side-dressing at least 125 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre.

Town Beautification

Les Broom and Mildred Nuttall, Area Development Advisers, report a lot of activity toward sprucing up the towns in Hardin County. Mrs. Elodee Holbrook has gained the cooperation of businessmen, churches and organizations in Rosiclare in a flower-planting project. Today flower beds in store windows and on sidewalks and hanging gardens in front of stores are gracing the business district of Rosiclare. Individuals, churches and organizations have worked hard at cleaning up vacant lots and have transformed these areas into gardens of colorful flowers.

Ladino Clover For Flushing Ewes

On the basis of a three-year study at Dixon Springs, one of the best pastures for the ewe flock before and during the breeding season is ladino clover. Other pastures compared with ladino were lespedeza and orchard grass. Ewes on ladino were in better condition, produced a larger number of lambs and in general lambed somewhat earlier than ewes on the other pastures.

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Frank Hinds, animal nutritionist, says that the time for weaning all lambs is rapidly approaching. Lambs should be weaned by mid-July, and the ewes dried up and put into shape for the approaching breeding season. The ewes should be wormed and have their feet trimmed, and after the drying-up period should be put on the best pasture you can provide so that they will be in thrifty, gaining condition for breeding.

4-H Judging School

On Thursday, July 12, at the Dixon Springs Experiment Station, a judging school will be held for southern Illinois 4-H members. The program starts at 9:30 a.m. with classes in hogs, cattle, sheep, dairy and horses. 4-H members are asked to bring sack lunches. After judging, and at the discretion of the farm adviser, recreation may include swimming at Lake Glendale or Dixon Springs State Park, fishing in Station ponds or softball at Mansfield Park on the Station.

HAC:dl
6/21/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Feeder Calf Sale

Cattle feeders will have a chance to buy both calves and yearlings fresh off the farm on October 4 at the Dixon Springs Experiment Station. For more than a decade farmers of the Egyptian Livestock Association have been selling quality feeder calves and yearlings at an annual auction. The association has insisted upon and maintained quality, management and health standards that have made their cattle profitable to both the producer and feeder. The sale, offering over 2,000 head, starts at 1:00 p.m.

Production Testing

Request for assistance with production tests on beef herds are beginning to pour in. This week we have requests to help with five herds in southern Illinois Records on your herd year after year can be extremely valuable. From them you can build a history of production on each cow in your herd that will help in culling and picking replacement heifers. Records will help you evaluate the bulls you are using. Also, records are becoming more and more important to the profitable sale of breeding stock. Your farm adviser can give you further information on the production testing program for beef cattle.

Fall Seedings Continuing

As rapidly as corn and sorghums are cut for the silo, new pasture seedings are going in on the Station. Before September 15, complete seedings were being made--that is, grasses were seeded with the small grain, and the alfalfa and clovers were seeded over the fertilizer band from the drill. Since September 15, only the grasses and small grains have been seeded. The legumes will be broadcast next spring.

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HAC:el
9/27/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Silo-filling operations are in full swing at the Dixon Springs Experiment Station. This past week the corn became too mature to make the best silage. Now the crews have moved into the grain sorghum fields, which are now in the heavy dough stage, with enough juicy stalks and leaves to prolong silage-making into and beyond frost.

3,000 Tons of Silage

On the Station about 2,600 tons of forage are being stored in eight trench silos. Another 400 tons will go into four concrete-stave upright silos. So we have more than six times as much silage going into trenches as into uprights. One advantage of the trenches over the uprights is that equally high-quality feed can be stored and removed at less cost.

Equipment Costly

We have not yet filled the upright silos. We are awaiting delivery of a new blower to hoist the forage.

The things farmers must buy cost money, and a blower can be listed among the costly items. Our blower will cost over $1,050. Bob Webb, Station Superintendent, horrified by such cost, recently did some quick calculations and figured that for the same amount we could buy enough plastic material to cover nearly 2 1/2 acres. The interest cost alone on the $1,050 blower would buy enough plastic each year to cover the silage stored in a trench 300 feet long and 20 feet wide.

So far as we know, no one will come around trying to sell a trench silo. So keep the old pencil sharp and find out before you buy whether the convenience or satisfaction of owning some equipment will be worth the cost. And don't forget to check with your farm adviser or your experiment station on how to make and store quality silage.

HAC:dl
9/13/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois, Dixon Springs Experiment Station, near Robbs in Southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

A new sheep research shed is nearing completion on the Dixon Springs Experiment Station. This building is open on the east side and has concrete outside lots. The building is of clear span steel construction allowing for an open, unobstructed shed for easy feeding, cleaning, and lot arrangement. A small office and laboratory are a part of this research shed.

New Cribs

Also new on the Station, just built and already filled are three circular, welded wire, ear corn storage bins, each with a capacity of 3,000 bushels. These are the first corn storage units built in the 22 years since the University of Illinois started the Dixon Springs Experiment Station. In 1940 the Station had corn cribs with a capacity for about 1,000 bushels. That was adequate then for neither acreage nor yields strained this facility. But both corn acreage and yields are way up today. Improved fertility and physical condition of the Station soils now make it feasible and desirable to grow a crop of corn every five to six years in a rotation with small grain and pasture.

Round-Up

The first week in November was round-up time at Dixon Springs. This is the time of year when all the cattle on the Station are individually checked for health and production. Each calf is weighed and graded to give a production record on each cow. The records are used in deciding whether to cull or keep an animal and in selecting good replacements. Many Illinois beef producers are conducting similar production tests with the help of the Cooperative Extension Service. Each county farm adviser can tell you how to enter a herd in the production testing program. He can see that a portable scale is brought to your farm and will provide people to grade each calf as it is weighed. Records will be processed by the

University of Illinois with proper adjustments made for the age and sex of the weaned calves. Ask your county farm adviser about this program.

Bremer brothers, Massac county beef producers, have for several years used the production testing program to help improve their Angus and Hereford herds. Last week 101 calves were weighed and graded in the Bremer herd, the largest herd on test in southern Illinois.

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HAC:cm
11/15/62

T H I S W E E K . . .

A T D I X O N S P R I N G S

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station, near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

On Saturday, December 1, 1962, at 1:00 p.m. at the University of Illinois Stock Pavilion at Urbana, Illinois, quarter horse buyers will have the rare opportunity of bidding on some of the country's finest horses. The University is selling its entire band of mares, fillies and stallions, offering in all a total of 22 head. These horses have been moved from the Dixon Springs Experiment Station to Urbana for this sale.

Feature Peppy, Hired Hand and Old Sorrel Breeding

King Hand, a son of King Ranch's Hired Hand, and El Sancho, a grandson of the same Hired Hand, will both be sold. Both are horses with excellent conformation whose offspring carry plenty of natural working ability. The mares and fillies to be offered carry Peppy breeding. This sale provides the rare opportunity to buy selected and proven King Ranch bloodlines.

Turned to Grass

Captain, not a registered quarter horse but long a faithful cattle horse, this week was retired to pasture on the Dixon Springs Experiment Station. As a spirited, long-legged, heavy-boned three-year-old, he made his first appearance at the Station in 1942. Captain and Oakley Robinson, cattle horseman, broke one another in. Captain and Oakley proved to be a good combination, and we know that it is with regret that Oakley is retiring this horse.

Many Miles and Many Cattle

The Experiment Station has more than 5,000 acres of pasture land spread over an area extending some 5 miles east and west and the same distance north and south. The first year, day in and day out, Oakley rode Captain over this extensive

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area checking fences and cattle. At the end of the year Captain was well broken. After the first year, Oakley used a trailer to haul Captain from pasture to pasture. At each pasture he would unload Captain, ride over the pasture checking the herd, load up and drive on to the next pasture. It has been estimated that over the past 20 years Captain has ridden some 50,000 miles in the trailer. During this same time, Oakley and Captain have caught more than 5,000 calves for tattooing, weighing, dehorning and castrating.

During the first week in November, Captain took part in his 20th cattle roundup on the Station. Though slower than in past years, Captain called more heavily on his "sixth sense" about cattle and turned in a creditable performance, never to be outdone by younger horses. It will be years before another horse can prove to be as valuable to the cattle operation at Dixon Springs.

HAC:kg
11/20/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station, near Robbs in Southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

The hottest thing we have to report this week is horseradish. And, according to Bill Courter, extension horticulturist, the hotter the horseradish, the better.

Illinois - Leader in Horseradish

Bill returned only recently from the East St. Louis area, where he goes each year during mid- to late November to check yields of the University of Illinois horseradish variety plots. One can learn interesting things from him about horseradish. For one thing, Illinois is the leading state in horseradish production, more than half of the country's production coming from the area around East St. Louis.

High Labor Crop

Compared with corn and other grain crops, the gross returns from horseradish can be quite high, often running above $500 per acre. But before you get all "heated up" about horseradish, let me tell you about "lifting":

Radish roots that have not been "lifted" develop multitudes of small side or branching roots as well as several crowns. The horseradish processors object to these many small branching roots. They want a single, large root because this single root is easier to clean and process. To produce this single large root, it is necessary at least twice during the growing season to break or brush off the side roots and all but the main crown. And this must be done without disturbing the end root's position in the soil. To do this "lifting" the soil from around each plant must be removed, the root lifted, the excess roots and crowns brushed off by hand and the soil replaced around the plant. All of this must be done so that the plant will produce a big, pungent root. And the soils in the East St. Louis area are reputed to put a special pungency in the horseradish.

Pass the horseradish, please.

HAC:mc
11/30/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

During the recent six-day deer hunting season, the human population in Pope county swelled as some 5,000 to 6,000 hunters moved through the woods and fields in search of the wary white-tailed deer. Although 1,361 deer were weighed through the check station, wildlife experts say the kill was considerably less than the estimated annual increase in the deer population. So bow-and-arrow hunters still have a splendid opportunity to silently whiz the feathered shaft into this elusive game.

Kill Greatest In Northeastern Pope

According to a charting of kills by Dick Andrews, University of Illinois wildlife researcher, the Dixon Springs Experiment Station environs furnished about 50 of the deer harvested. Again, as in past years, the greatest concentration of kills occurred in the northeastern part of Pope County. In one square mile of this area, 36 deer were taken.

The first three days of the season--Friday, Saturday and Sunday--accounted for 85 percent of the kill, indicating that there were probably a lot of week-end hunters and that more of the deer increase could be taken in a split season involving two week ends. The week-end kill totaled 1,150, with slightly more than 200 taken in the last three days.

Blood Samples From Deer

Dick Andrews and the University of Illinois were interested in obtaining blood samples from deer to check for leptospirosis and other diseases. Dick reports

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that they were able to obtain such samples from about 25 percent of the deer coming through the check station. Fleshing, health and general appearance of the animals was excellent.

Safe Hunters

Weather conditions were excellent, with clear, warm days throughout the season. With 5,000 to 6,000 hunters roaming the woods of the county, it is to the hunters' credit that no fatalities occurred; nor were there any forest fires, even though conditions were dry. Reports are that the hunters were good sportsmen and few game law violations were detected.

Hunters who were unable to obtain permits prior to the season had little difficulty in obtaining reissued permits as they were turned in at the checking stations. During the first day, more than 500 hunters were present at the checking station with their names on a list for the reissue of permits. It is reported that this waiting list was taken care of the first day.

Many unusual stories are heard during the deer-hunting season. Many of them are the same ones that were told last year and the year before that and the year before that. Doubtless some of them are true. Unquestionably they are interesting. Anyway, it all leads us to believe that the best part of hunting is the telling of it. We can tell you that Pope County is a good place to hunt deer, and this is true!

HAC:dl
12/12/62

THIS WEEK . . .

AT DIXON SPRINGS

(A roundup of the week's work, activities and observations at the University of Illinois Dixon Springs Experiment Station near Robbs in southern Illinois, prepared by H. A. Cate)

Feed Plant Burns

Early Friday morning, December 14, soon after midnight, the Dixon Springs Experiment Station suddenly and dramatically went out of the business of pelleting livestock feeds. The feed plant burned to the basement, completely destroying the pellet mill, feed grinder, feed mixer, elevator, storage bins, one truck and 23 electric motors.

A fallen, twisted, smouldering mass of pipes and elevators and a heap of slowly burning cattle and sheep feed is all that remains of the once-efficient feed-handling center. It is estimated that the loss in money is somewhat less than $100,000. Further, the experimental and convenience loss is tremendous. All feeds for the Station's cattle and sheep were carefully weighed and mixed, and much of it was pelleted through this plant. Many of the experimental feeding projects have been disrupted. Today, substitute and temporary feeding arrangements are being initiated.

Cold, Still Night

Fortunately, the night was still, with little wind to blow high-flying sparks into and onto a nearby complex of buildings used for lumber, seed and machinery storage. Nonetheless, extreme heat did ignite one corn storage in a nearby facility, and it was only through the efficient operation of the Vienna Fire Department and Station personnel that this blaze was brought under control, thus saving 6,000 bushels of corn. Approximately 2,000 bushels were damaged by water.

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Smoky Work

Exemplary action on the part of John Bailey and Robert Boaz, Station employees, prevented a much greater damage to corn. Burning corn under a non-burning but extremely hot cone-shaped metal roof over a 30-foot-high circular welded steel wire crib could not be reached with a play of water. Therefore, this intrepid twosome, Bailey and Boaz, quickly moved a corn elevator over the center of the cone roof, ran up the elevator with a fire hose and effectively sprayed a stream of water on the burning corn. By alternately manning the hose, they stayed on the job, though they were completely enveloped in a hissing fog of rising steam and smoke.

Pioneered With Pellets

Significant to those acquainted with the work of the Dixon Springs Experiment Station is the loss of the pelleting mill, for much of the pioneering work with the pelleting of high-roughage complete rations and the pelleting of all-roughage rations for sheep and cattle was done here. The Station effectively demonstrated that complete pelleted fattening rations for sheep made it possible to produce gain on 25 to 30 percent less feed. It also demonstrated that all-hay rations for steer calves, when pelleted, would triple daily gains with 9 pounds of pelleted hay, producing the same gain as 18 pounds of baled hay. The pellet mill will be missed.

H.C:kg
12-20-62

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